

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Navy directs second EIS review

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Navy conceded on Friday to public and agency concerns over high-magnitude and large-scale training and bombing on Tinian and Pagan, ordering a second round of review of impacts to these two CNMI islands. The Navy disclosed that further analysis is "needed."

» **Navy documents cave to scrutiny, in what officials call a victory for CNMI**

Federal and local government agencies believe the Navy has erroneously and underwhelmingly declared their impacts to be "less than significant."

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, for one, has withheld rating the Navy's impact documents until further review is completed.

Craig Whelden, executive

See NAVY on Page 4

CUC: Last feeder up this week

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. aims to have the final feeder, "Kiya 4," up by the end of this week, utility officials said during a press conference Friday, as the CNMI heads into its third

month in a state of disaster following Typhoon Soudelor.

» **Inos renews state of significant emergency**

CUC is still on target from the original date to have most of the island energized by end of October, but in

60 days since Typhoon Soudelor hit Saipan, there were logistical

issues that made the two months "not necessarily 60 days of work," CUC power manager Gary Camacho said.

As they move into island laterals, the work becomes "more strenuous," but they are trying to bring in six more bucket trucks for this effort.

CUC officials on Friday said

See CUC on Page 4

Welding job triggers fire at XO Market building

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A fire believed to be caused by welding work burned two apartment rooms atop the New X.O. Market in Gualo Rai on Saturday afternoon.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services has yet to release information about the fire.

Saipan Tribune, however, gathered that no one was injured in the blaze.

Witnesses said the two-hour fire started at about 2pm from a trash can of X.O. Market located in the back portion of the two-story commercial building.



Thick smoke spews from the two apartment units in the back portion of the two-story commercial building in Gualo Rai on Saturday afternoon. X.O. Market, which occupies most of the first floor of the building, was not damaged.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The store occupies mostly the first floor of the building. On the second floor are four apartment

units, including two that were renovated because the roof was

See FIRE on Page 4



SUMO WRESTLING COMES TO SAIPAN

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

Kids have fun playing with Japanese sumo wrestlers at the beachside of Hyatt Regency Saipan last Saturday. According to organizer Chiaki Nagumo, chairman of the Saipan Japan Cultural Exchange Program Association, the event was a way of helping residents, especially children, recover from the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor.

INSIDE



NATION

Floods from record-setting rain along the East Coast wash out bridges and homes.

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ASIA

Doctors Without Borders says 19 are killed in an airstrike at an Afghan clinic.

» PAGE 18



WORLD

Russian warplanes attack the Islamic State group and other insurgents with new airstrikes.

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Local



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The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) Community Guidance Center (CGC)

CGC is the primary provider for behavioral health services in the CNMI. CGC offers comprehensive services for children, adolescents, adults, and older adults dealing with emotional, behavioral, or substance abuse-related problems. See CGC's programs and services below!



Substance Abuse Prevention Services

A Substance Abuse Prevention Program focusing on Underage Drinking and Prescription Drug misuse and abuse. Promoting a Drug-Free CNMI!

- Pacific Jurisdiction Substance Abuse Prevention Skills Training (Evidence Based)
- General Substance Abuse Prevention Presentations
- safeTALK (Evidence Based)
Content: Brief suicide training on knowing the signs and where to refer.
- ASIST Applied Suicide intervention Skills Training (Evidence Based)
Content: Brief suicide intervention and safe skills for sustaining life or linking to appropriate referral.
- Challenge Masters
Content: An interaction of adult/youth, staff, community or family activities that fosters and promotes teamwork, leadership, problem-solving, trust and conflict resolution centered around substance abuse prevention.
- Social Marketing Information available upon request.
- Promotion and awareness of the dangers of Prescription Drug misuse and abuse.

Located on Navy Hill at the Community Guidance Center Building
Hours: Monday to Friday, 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Telephone: (670) 323-6560/1

Substance Abuse Treatment Services

If you or someone you know is struggling with substance use issue, CGC offers Substance Abuse Treatment services to put one on the path to recovery. The CGC Recovery Program approach is aimed at helping clients with chemical and/or alcohol dependency understand the behavioral and psychological effects of psychoactive substances and develop practical lifestyle changes and coping strategies that enhance quality of life.

They include: Screening/Registration, Intake Assessment, Substance Abuse/Addictions Evaluation, Patient Consultation, Treatment/Discharge Planning, Brief Intervention, Individual Counseling, Psychoeducational class (Discovery), Peer Support, Connection to Recovery Community, Connection to Recovery Meetings (12 Step), Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Crystal Meth Anonymous, etc.).

Located on Navy Hill on Gloria Drive
Appointment Hours: Monday to Friday, 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Telephone: (670) 323-6560/1

Wellness Clinic

Services include Victims of Crime Advocacy (VOCA) Program. Supports the provision of services to all victims of reported or unreported crime in the CNMI. These include victims who need counseling due to secondary trauma, domestic violence, depression, panic disorders, suicide ideation, and physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse.

Located on Navy Hill at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Wellness Clinic Room #19

Appointment Hours: Monday to Thursday, 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM
Telephone: (670) 234-8950 ext. 3517

Transitional Living Center

The Transitional Living Center offers programs and rehabilitation services for those with mental illness and those with disabilities to help them achieve independence and become integrated back into their community.

They include: Day Treatment Program, Case Management, Outreach Services, Illness Management & Recovery Training, Medication Management, and Workshops.

Located on Navy Hill on Gloria Drive
Appointment Hours: Monday to Friday, 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Telephone: (670) 323-4060/4063

Outreach presentations and exhibits about substance abuse prevention-related topics are available upon request.

Visit <http://chcc.gov.mp> to find the Behavioral Health Services Request Form or email cgcpreservation@gmail.com. Services should be requested 2 weeks or more in advance.

STANDING IN SUPPORT

Koblerville Elementary School distributed school supplies to 630 students from Kindergarten to 5th grade. The school supplies were donated by KKMP Foundation, IT&E, PSS Board of Education, MHS 1987 Alumni, Rep. Edwin Propst, Rep. Roman Benavente, and other community members. The distribution was held on Friday, at the school cafeteria with the school principal Rizalina Liwag, vice principal Jeremiah Benavente, Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero, KKMP Foundation and 1987 MHS Alumni representatives Viola Alepuyo and Mama Lou, Best Sunshine International chief service officer Tao Xing, and Rep. Edwin Propst in attendance. The school administrators would like to thank their sponsors for their generosity and support for Public School System students.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Man in marriage fraud case gets three years probation

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Benigno Ilo Mettao, a 27-year-old man who pleaded guilty to lying to a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officer in connection with his sham marriage to a Chinese national, was slapped with a three-year probation sentence.

At a sentencing hearing on Thursday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona also directed Mettao to perform 50 hours of community service, not possess and use a controlled substance, participate in a substance abuse treatment program, and refrain from consuming any alcoholic beverages, among other conditions.

Mettao was ordered to immediately pay \$100 in special assessment fee after sentencing.

Assistant U.S. attorney Russell Lorfing, counsel for the U.S. government, recommended a sentence of probation and no prison time—the low end of the sentencing guidelines range.

Attorney Michael Dotts, the court-appointed counsel

for Mettao, recommended the same. The U.S. Probation Officer Margarita Wonenberg also recommended the same.

Mettao pleaded guilty to false statement. The offense carries a maximum penalty of a five-year prison term, a \$250,000 fine, and a three-year supervised release.

In an interview with a USCIS officer on May 25, 2011, Mettao said he lived in San Antonio and that he lived with Bao Qin Ding, both of which were untrue.

Last July, Mettao was among the witnesses that the U.S. government called to the witness stand in the jury trial of Qiong Lu Pua, a

woman charged with three others for conspiring in a fraudulent marriage solely in order for two of them to obtain green cards.

Pua's co-defendants were Ding, Zhenging Lu, Ba, and Norma Nekaifes. Mettao was charged for the same conduct in a separate indictment.

Pua was found guilty and is awaiting sentencing. Nekaifes and Mettao pleaded guilty. Defendants Lu and Ding are believed to have already fled to China.



Manglona

This message is brought to you by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in partnership with the CHCC: Community Guidance Center.

Today is the last day to register for FEMA aid

By **FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA**
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Today is the last day for the public to register for individual assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, marking 60 days after the declaration of a major disaster in the Commonwealth.

"We want to make sure that everybody that needs to register get it done. Oct. 5th is the deadline," federal coordinating officer Stephen M. DeBlasio Sr. said.

FEMA may accept late registration, provided it is justified, DeBlasio said.

"If, for some reason, someone has a reasonable explanation as to why they didn't register in time, either on my authority or my deputy's authority, we can actually accept a late registration. But it would have to be justified as to why they would not have known after all the broadcasting that we've done about the process," DeBlasio said.

As of Friday, 8,690 have registered for FEMA individual assistance. In Saturday's update, 4,460 applications were approved.

FEMA has approved over \$15.6 million in housing assistance and over \$6.8 million in other needs assistance, bringing the current total assistance under the individual and households program to over \$22.4 million.

FEMA's individual assistance is available to U.S. citizens, non-citizen nationals, and qualified aliens with disaster-related damage on Saipan; however, they continue to encourage everyone to apply.

FEMA said they will refer those who they were not able to help to other organizations and organizations can also get information from them.

"CARE, Red Cross, they can come to us for information on these individuals so that they can see who we helped, who we didn't help, how much we are able to help them and to hopefully meet those unmet needs, the gaps between what we can do and what the voluntary agencies can pick up and continue to support," DeBlasio said.

FEMA will keep the Disaster Recovery Center in the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe open until Oct. 9. After that, those who have queries, issues, appeals, and follow-ups on their assistance application may call FEMA's toll free number.

"After the [Oct.] 9th the DRC folks on the FEMA side of the house will be demobilized. We're looking at, possibly, right now the Small Business Administration continuing to run what they call a Disaster Loan Operation Center or DLOC," DeBlasio said.

Public assistance

FEMA has also already started reimbursing public or government projects under the public assistance program.

"The public assistance program is working rapidly right now," DeBlasio said. "FEMA is going to reimburse at a minimum, 90 percent of what it cost to rebuild public infrastructure."

As of Saturday, over \$706,000 was already obligated under the Public Assistance Categories A-B or Emergency Work. According to FEMA,

these are works "that must be performed to reduce or eliminate an immediate threat to life, protect public health and safety, and to protect improved property that is significantly threatened due to disasters or emergencies declared by the President."

Under Categories C-G or Permanent Work, more than \$4,300 has been obligated so far. These are work "required to restore a damaged facility, through repair or restoration, to its pre-disaster design, function, and capacity

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in accordance with applicable codes and standards."

"Obligated" means that the funds were made available to

the state via electronic transfer following FEMA's final review and approval of public assistance projects.

"We probably have a couple of million dollars that are about to be released," DeBlasio said.

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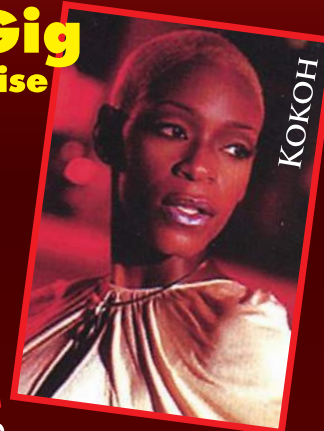
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Construction of isolation area for virus outbreaks in permitting stage

The construction of an isolation area for potential virus outbreaks in the Commonwealth is still in the permitting stage, according to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CPA executive director Maryann Lizama said they have met with Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. officials to coordinate construction of 36'x16' quarantine area for any possible infected passengers coming to the CNMI.

The area is located on the ground floor between Gates 2

and 3 and consists of a screening and treatment area that will be manned by CHCC personnel.

According to CPA's project report, RNV Construction is now processing the permits for the project and will begin work once they are issued.

The CPA board approved a supplemental budget of \$44,880 for the isolation facility.

Since CPA is funding the project, CPA personnel would be given priority for training and grant funding on CHCC's side. (Jayson Camacho)

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CUC

From Page 1

they aim to “tie-in” Kiya 4 as soon as this week.

“On Aug. 28, we only had three feeders—1, 3, and 4—and now, in October, we have all except Kiya 4 and Kiya 4 will be done next week,” said acting executive director John Riegel.

“In a month from now there’s going to be a large number of homes on power,” Riegel told *Saipan Tribune*.

CUC has Power Plant 1 at 35-megawatt capacity. When one generator is put back online this week, this would be up to 45 megawatts.

Power Plant 4, meanwhile, is at full capacity at 8.4 megawatts, Riegel said. This genera-

tion is on standby.

As of Friday morning, CUC was running 19 megawatts of power, with this amount expected to go up as more homes get on the grid.

CUC information officer Brad Ruszala said they have been working to continue a “steady flow of supplies” and “cut through the red tape” as restoration efforts continue.

Riegel said one lesson he learned from the typhoon was that they “need more inventory.” CUC struggles with lack of payment from other government agencies.

CUC has recovered 635 damaged transformers. Riegel said they have ordered “reconditioned” ones from a vendor. About 1,062 are en route.

Riegel said this was at “less

expense” and a difference of “two weeks versus two months” in time to arrive on island.

Inos renews state of emergency

Meantime, Gov. Eloy S. Inos renewed on Friday the state of significant emergency and major disaster for a third time since Soudelor hit in August.

“...Full utility services have

not yet been restored to the island of Saipan,” Inos said.

Inos last renewed the state of disaster on Sept. 3. Then acting-governor Ralph DLG Torres made the declaration a month before for the first time on Aug. 3.

President Barack Obama declared a state of major disaster and significant emergency on Aug. 5, allowing for federal assistance in recovery efforts.

FIRE

From Page 1

damaged by Typhoon Soudelor.

A staff of X.O. Market said two construction workers were doing welding work in one of the two apartment units that were damaged by the typhoon.

She said sparks from welding work fell onto the trash can on the first floor that was filled with garbage, triggering the blaze.

The workers tried to extinguish the fire in the trash can, but the blaze went up to the two rooms being repaired.

The store staff said she

was working at that time when her co-worker shouted that there’s a big fire in the back. She said her co-worker called the police.

When police officers came, she said, they told them they need firefighters, not police.

She said an ambulance then arrived so they told them they

need water, not medics.

The staff said firefighters later came, but there was not enough supply of water.

A woman who stays in one of the units on the second floor was seen crying at the scene. She said all her belongings and papers were inside her unit. *Saipan Tribune*

later learned that her room was not burned.

Only the two rooms undergoing renovation located in the back portion were burned.

The X.O. Market shut down the store’s power and closed for business along with its laundry shop.

The fire damaged the

store’s generator compressor. There was no damage inside the store.

X.O. reopened for business yesterday at noon. The laundry is expected to reopen today, Monday.

Fire investigators are still looking into the cause of the blaze.

NAVY

From Page 1

director of the Marine Corps Forces Pacific—operating under the Department of Navy—disclosed the news in a phone call to Gov. Eloy Inos around 9:30 Friday morning.

Whelden separately disclosed the news to *Saipan Tribune* in an email the same morning.

Administration officials heavily involved with coordinating a response to the military’s live-fire plan took the news as a win for the CNMI and a win for the National Environmental Policy Act, which mandates the impact review.

Whelden was pressed on Thursday for his thoughts on the CNMI’s request that the Navy furnish a second draft environmental impact statement for its live-fire project.

The Navy’s announcement of “supplemental” EIS came on top of the close of the formal comment period for the Navy’s first draft.

Whelden told *Saipan Tribune* that the supplemental EIS is expected to be finished in the spring of 2016. Its “full scope” would not be known until they review and consider all public and agency comments received up to Friday, Whelden said.

“As a result of the information we’ve received to date, we’ve identified a need to conduct additional analysis of potential impacts to the groundwater aquifer on Tinian and coral on Tinian and Pagan, including associated mitigation,” Whelden said in the email. “We’ve received many comments in the past six months and will be assessing them in the weeks to come... [When the EIS is completed] we will notify the CNMI, and the public will have an opportunity to review and comment during a review period. We appreciate all the public input to date and it will all be considered in preparing the final EIS,” Whelden said.

In total, the CNMI has responded to the Navy’s plans with well over a thousand pages of official comment, administration officials have said.

Inos, in his comments, said the CNMI has provided two-thirds of Tinian to the U.S. military, and the entire island of Farallon de Medinilla for training purposes.

He said CNMI citizens volunteer to serve in the Armed Forces at rates far exceeding the national average, and that the community has worked hard to collaborate with the Department of Defense.

“Unfortunately, the [CNMI live-fire project] threatens to compromise that partnership,” Inos writes. “The Navy has proposed to take the entire of island of Pagan for large-scale, live-fire training (including artillery, aerial, and ship-to-shore bombardment) and to radically and unilaterally alter the previously-agreed activities carried out on the military use portion of the island of Tinian.”

“As proposed, these actions represent an existential threat to our tourism-driven economy, our fragile ecosystem, our cultural resources and, indeed, our way of life,” Inos said. “I must respectfully insist that the Navy withdraw and reconsider its proposal.”

Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Foreign and Federal Relations, said the Defense Department’s admission on Friday is a “victory for the people of the Commonwealth.”

“For many months, an overwhelming majority of our people have stood together with a strong objection to the proposals by the DoD to conduct live-fire training in our islands because we have legitimate concerns about the dangers posed to our natural resources and our way of life in these fragile island communities,” Demapan said. “We never objected to patriotism nor do we object to our armed forces. We simply believed that other alternatives needed to be considered in order to strike a balance between national security and the economic welfare of the people who proudly call the Marianas home.”

“This latest development is a positive indication that resiliency can defeat relentlessness,”

Demapan said.

EPA: Further review

The EPA, in their comment letter, tells Whelden that a number of substantial issues warrant further review and analysis, and consideration of additional alternatives.

“...We fully support the [Navy’s] recent decision to prepare a supplemental draft EIS to address” concerns the Navy has received, wrote EPA enforcement division director Kathleen H. Johnson in the EPA cover letter. “EPA will defer issuing a rating until the [supplemental EIS] is circulated.”

The EPA letter was dated Sep. 29, some three days before the Navy announced its decision publicly.

The Navy has not discussed the “vulnerability” of the Tinian aquifer to contamination, according to EPA.

“The analysis does not appear to fully consider the highly permeable Marianas limestone, which underlies most of the project area [on Tinian] and creates high susceptibility to contamination. The DEIS notes that the limestone is porous, allowing water to readily flow through it, and that rainfall percolates rapidly downward into such rock; however, no discussion of the solubility of munitions constituents is included, nor are any protections identified to prevent pollutants from infiltrating the soil and entering the aquifer,” the EPA states.

The EPA wants that the Navy to discuss the solubility of various munitions constituents and other potential pollutants that the proposed action would introduce to surface soils, and the estimated time it would take for these pollutants to reach groundwater. For example, perchlorate, a munitions chemical, from propellant in rocket fuels should be discussed “as it is very soluble and exhibits little to no soil absorption,” the EPA states.

On the impact to corals, the Navy plans to permanently remove 10.3 acres of coral on Tinian to construct land ramps for assault vehicles will result in high-magnitude, severe impacts

to coral reefs and marine habitat, says EPA. That 10.3 acres would include another 10.3 acres for indirect impacts.

“The Navy does not adequately evaluate a full range of alternatives and demonstrate that the ramp at Unai Chulu is the Least Environmental Damaging Practicable Alternative” as required by the Clean Water Act, Johnson said. “It does not identify appropriate mitigation to offset the project impacts nor whether the Navy could mitigate the impacts in accordance” with this federal law, Johnson adds. The EPA believes this failure to adequately offset significant project impacts is “grounds for denial” of Clean Water Act permit application.

Consultant: Lack of context

“The total land mass of the CNMI is about 175 of the size of Rhode Island,” writes Jim Keany, ESA biological resources director, in their memo to Inos detailing their comments on the live-fire project. ESA is a consultant to Inos on the live-fire project.

“The [Navy] does not acknowledge the special context of island ecology and lacks science-based analysis,” Keany said. “The EIS consistently uses acres of habitat loss as an index of magnitude of effects to habitat and wildlife. While loss of 100 acres of habitat would have relatively minor effects to common wildlife [in] the mainland U.S., loss of the same area of habitat on a small island that supports endemic and rare species has vastly different consequences,” Keany said.

The draft EIS also neglects environmental justice.

“The CJMT EIS analysis acknowledges that the entire population of the CNMI is minority and low income, yet makes the astounding conclusion that there would be no disproportionate impact to those populations because all would be impacted equally,” Keany said. “This is analogous to determining that it was fair to place a toxic incinerator in a low-income minority because all those in the town would be similarly affected—

as opposed to placing it somewhere else.”

There are two executive orders relevant to the NEPA compliance process and to the CJMT project.

Executive order 12898 directs all federal agencies to address adverse human health effects from its program on minority and low-income communities.

Executive order 13045 requires federal agencies to assess environmental health risks and safety risks that would disproportionately impact children.

Government consultants believe the Navy has failed the spirit and letter of both orders.

Another training location

While the Navy has essentially ordered another year of environmental impact review, its decision to continue with their plans despite thousands of pages of comments balking at the military’s proposal has some officials concerned that the Navy is entrenched for the long haul. If the Navy were to continue with their project, they would have to provide a basic requirement of federal law—an adequate analysis of “alternatives,” according to Dentons LLC, a firm hired to review the live-fire project.

Dentons argues that U.S. courts have repeatedly ruled that if an agency fails to consider viable or reasonable alternatives, an EIS is inadequate.

“...Our battle is not over,” Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

“Despite our community’s strong stance to preserve and protect our pristine island environment, and despite the DoD’s admission of error, it is still troubling that they have decided to still make an attempt at a supplemental environmental impact study,” Demapan said. “They should invest their time and energy in considering a better alternative in a place where they will not diminish important natural resources and in a place where they will not drastically alter the economic landscape of the community.”

“An alternative analysis is not merely a matter of paperwork,” wrote Dentons lawyers Nicholas Yost, Matthew Adams,

and Jessica Duggan. “Or an exercise in justifying pre-existing agency preferences.”

According to Dentons, the Navy has failed to evaluate training in the following areas:

■ In Japan and Korea, where U.S. forces currently and can and do use training ranges in both countries

■ In Australia, where U.S. forces regularly train, and where the two countries have agreed to extend long-term their training arrangements.


■ In the Philippines, where U.S. has trained for years, and have conducted large-scale amphibious exercises in island environments.

■ In Hawaii, where there exists already multiple testing and training ranges.

■ In Chuuk or Palau, where the Navy has reportedly suggested it could move the training if the CNMI does not approve a land use agreement allowing military training on Pagan. “Presumably it would not have made this suggestion if Chuuk or Palau were not reasonable alternatives,” Dentons said.

Dentons says these “legal deficiencies,” among others, must be corrected. If not, the Navy will “not have a legally-adequate basis for reaching a decision on the CJMT” live-project.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy birthday to our most precious little angel, Lymia Michelle Macaranas, who turns 4 years old today! We love you to pieces. Hugs and kisses from Daddy, Mommy, Grandma Darlene, Ally, and CJ.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Judge dismisses foreign workers' lawsuit vs Dynasty

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Due to delayed service of process, the federal court has granted Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino owners' motion to dismiss the lawsuit filed against them by over 500 current and former foreign workers.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed without prejudice the lawsuit filed by

Eric F. Dona and co-plaintiffs against Hong Kong Entertainment Ltd. and Mega Stars Overseas Ltd. Dismissal without prejudice means the workers can re-file the lawsuit.

Manglona directed the clerk of court to vacate the hearing on this motion for Oct. 8, 2015, and close the case. The judge made the ruling based on the papers submitted by both parties.

Manglona said the behavior

Dynasty casino remains closed

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino's announcement that its hotel doors will remain open, its casino will remain shuttered due to an ongoing dispute between the gaming commission and the new owners of Tinian Dynasty.

Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission executive director Lucia Blanco-Maratita said they have received word informally that TDHC hotel operations will remain open but the casino remains closed.

This is in part because Tinian Entertainment Co./Chinese Strategic Holdings Ltd. has yet to pay the fees and submit the documents being required of it by the gaming commission. TEC was given until Sept. 9 to deposit with TCGCC the additional \$100,000 refundable investigation fee.

"TEC/CSHL has not complied with the submission of all requested documents currently pending nor has it paid the additional investigative/licensing cost deposit to complete their suitability investigations," Blanco-Maratita said.

Earlier last month, Chinese Strategic Holdings chair and executive director Kwok Hing Wilfred Lam and its subsidiary TEC asked for a small compromise—for the TCGCC to "show good faith" in issuing an interim casino authorization"

before they pay the additional \$100,000.

According to Blanco-Maratita, in their latest special meeting on Sept. 24, TCGCC voted and approved to request the appearance of the applicant and Lam, either in person or via Skype.

"This was to discuss the applicant's plans for proceeding with the interim casino authorization application process/procedures," Blanco-Maratita said.

» **TCGCC still awaiting TEC to submit fee, docs**
» **TEC chair refuses to engage TCGCC in dialogue**

"Unfortunately, Lam refused to engage in such dialogue and TCGCC did not take any action with respect to the interim casino authorization matter," she added.

TDHC earlier said that more than 150 employees were laid off and still remain jobless following the casino's closure. Without the casino, the Tinian municipality has let go of people who work for the government that is funded by casino revenues.

Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas said that about 20 of his staff have already been informed that they couldn't fund their positions due to the casino doors remaining closed.

The \$100,000 the commission is asking from TEC and CSHL is an investigation fee that will be used to look into the suitability of both companies to run a casino. It is refundable, which means any unused portion of the fee will be refunded to the applicant.

Water outage in Fina Sisu, As Lito on Oct. 7

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform residents of Fina Sisu and As Lito that there will be a water outage from 8am to 5pm on Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2015.

The purpose of this water outage is to allow CUC's contractor, RNV Construction, to install new gate valves on Chalan Msgr. Martinez Road and Chalan Tun Doi Road intersection. The areas to be affected by this construction are the residences on Chalan Msgr. Martinez Road from Shell Dandan to the ABCD Market in Kobleville, Chalan Tun Apa Road, Chalan Tun Doi Road, and

all of Fina Sisu village to area near Frankie's Auto Shop on As Perdido Road. This project is part of the 8" ACP Waterline Abandonment for San Vicente Service Area Extension Project funded by the U.S. Environmental Agency.

CUC and its contractor will be working hard to return water service to our customers in the affected area as soon as possible. CUC apologizes in advance for any inconvenience resulting from this project. Please direct inquiries to project manager Yvonne Cabrera at (670) 664-4282. (CUC)

of the plaintiffs' counsel, Samuel I. Mok, was not negligent but intentional: he is asserting that he had a better idea of when service should be made than the Judicial Conference Committee on Federal Rules of Civil Procedure does.

"That is not good cause," the judge pointed out.

On the issue of whether the court should exercise discretion to extend the deadline to serve the process, Manglona said the plaintiffs do not assert that they would have a statute of limitations problem if the case were dismissed and they had to re-file it.

Manglona said the plaintiffs' alleged injuries from the denial of HKE's CW-1 petitions in December 2014 occurred less than a year ago.

Manglona said there is no indication that defense counsel Sean Frink evaded service or goaded Mok into not serving the defendants.

She said the parties' discussions as to enlarging the time for defendants to respond to the complaint presupposes service because the time to respond allowed by the Rules—21 days—starts to run only after the summons and complaint have been served.

Manglona said it is misguided to cast aspersions on Frink, as plaintiffs do in their opposition brief (characterizing defendants' motion to dismiss as "disingenuous" and shift the blame on him for their own counsel's decision not to serve the original complaint).

"In these circumstances, the

court declines to exercise its discretion under Rule 4(m) to enlarge time for service absent a showing of good cause," the judge said.

HKE and Mega Stars Overseas Ltd., through counsel Frink, asked the court to dismiss the lawsuit due to delayed service of the summons and complaint.

Frink said the workers filed the lawsuit on Feb. 4, 2015, and that Federal Rule of Civil Procedure requires that service of the summons and complaint must be made upon each defendant within 120 days after the complaint is filed.

Frink said 120 days after Feb. 4, 2015, was June 4, 2015. The lawyer said the service of the complaint and summons did not take place upon either defendant

on or before June 4, 2015.

In plaintiffs' opposition, Mok asserted that good cause exists why service of their complaint was not timely made. Alternatively, Mok asked the court to give his clients more time to serve Tinian Dynasty owners with their lawsuit.

In their lawsuit, the workers alleged that the owners and management of Tinian Dynasty lied to them about their immigration status—that they were legally authorized to work despite the denial of their CNMI-only Transitional Worker (CW-1) petitions.

The amended complaint adds a claim of constructive fraud against Tinian Dynasty's owner, HKE, and HKE majority shareholder, Mega Stars Overseas Limited.



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Companies continue to support typhoon relief efforts

The American Red Cross NMI Chapter continues to receive a stream of donations from private companies that enable it to deliver humanitarian services to Saipan in the aftermath of Typhoon Soudelor.

E-Land provided 1,000 blankets, 1,000 water containers, and 1,000 mosquito nets. Luen Fung Enterprises provided a 40-foot container of drinking water, containing about 1,188 cases. Pretty Corp. donated food, clothing, shoes, and baby supplies. Transpac (Coca-Cola/Foremost) provided 200 cases of drinking water. Avis Rent-a-Car donated \$500 cash. Godfather's Bar donated \$650 cash, representing the proceeds from a fundraiser the bar hosted.

"We are extremely grateful to everyone in our community and



E-Land donates 1,000 blankets, 1,000 water containers, and 1,000 mosquito nets to the American Red Cross NMI Chapter.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



From left, American Red Cross NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh, Mr. Guo of Pretty Corp., and Rock Ahulau of the Red Cross.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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around the world that has provided critical relief supplies and financial support to empower our humanitarian services," said NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh. "Without these resources, the thousands of hours of work by hundreds of volunteers would not have been possible. The Red Cross



Valerie Reyes of Avis Rent-a-Car presents a \$500 check to American Red Cross NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Division of Coastal Resources Management

Caller Box 10007, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Office, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

October 2, 2015

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Fiesta Resort	09/02/2015 SMS-90-X-77	Upgrade Storm Drainage	Fiesta Resort	Shoreline APC (Amendment)	Approved (9/24/2015)*
2. Ironwood Blue Water Homes	09/11/2015 SMS-2014-X-020	Monument Sign	Gualo Rai	Major Sitting 2015 Permit Amendment	Approved (9/17/2015)*
3. Bridge Investment Group	09/15/2015 TPlm-2015-X-065	Temporary Staging	Tinian	Ports & Industrial APC (Amendment)	Approved (9/24/2015)*
4. IT&E	9/25/2015 S/T/RWSPIm-99-X-247	Repair Existing Cable Lines/ Install Fiber Optic Cables	Middle Road	Wetland & Ports & Industrial APC (Amendment)	Approved (9/29/2015)*
5. Saipan Sea Ventures, Inc.	9/30/2015 SPIm-2015-X-066	Drydock	South Seaplane Ramp Lower Base	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (10/1/2015)*
6. Saipan Comfort Homes, LLC	10/2/2015	Low Income Residential Units	As Terlaje	Major Sitting	Under Review*

Require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

and our community owe a debt of gratitude to all those volunteers who delivered all these selfless acts of kindness to help those in need."

In response to Typhoon Soudelor Red Cross has already provided assistance to more than 5,000 households (12,000 family members). They provided 20,000 meals to those most affected and staying in shelters. In addition the Red Cross provided nursing and mental health support to hundreds of families needing extra help.

They worked with other non-profit and faith based organizations to reach families in remote and isolated areas. They collaborated closely with NMI Homeland Security/Emergency management, FEMA and other partners to assist families as they begin their long road to recovery. The NMI Red Cross team continues to work with the Long Term Recovery Committee (Saipan CARES) to assist with casework management and developing strategies to meet unmet needs.

The Red Cross has spent over \$2.2 million on direct aid to families. The Red Cross continues to need your support as a volunteer and donor. For more information on how to donate or volunteer, e-mail us at nnmichapter@redcross.org. (ARC)

High court asked 'to correct' judge's ruling on sex crime law

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General asked the CNMI Supreme Court Thursday to step in and correct the alleged mistake of Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho in dismissing the first-degree sexual assault charge filed against an 18-year-old student accused of breaking into a neighbor's house and raping a 16-year-old girl.

Assistant attorney general Matthew C. Baisley asked the high court to immediately issue a writ of mandamus that instructs Camacho to reinstate the sexual assault charge against the suspect, George Norris Langu Jr.

Baisley also asked the high

court to instruct the trial court that there is no legislative loophole to the first-degree sexual assault statute.

The prosecutor said Camacho's order offends basic principles of legal reasoning as well as justice.

Citing a loophole in the law, Camacho dismissed during a preliminary hearing last Sept. 15 the first-degree sexual assault charge filed against Langu.

Camacho found no probable cause to believe that the crime of sexual assault in the first degree has been committed. He noted that when the Legislature amended the sex crime law, it inadvertently created a loophole.

The judge said the Legislature carved out an exception

to allow for what has been referred to as the "Romeo and Juliet" exception—when consenting 16-or 17-year-olds have sex with someone who is 18, 19, or 20 years old.

Camacho, however, found probable cause to believe that Langu committed the other charges: burglary, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and criminal mischief.

The OAG then filed a motion for reconsideration, stating that Camacho's order "threaten[s] the lives and safety of thousands of CNMI teenagers."

» **OAG says Camacho's order 'threatens the lives of thousands of CNMI teenagers'**

It asserted that Camacho's ruling would deter teenagers who are victims of sexual assault from coming forward to complain for fear that such complaints are now legally meritless.

The OAG filed yesterday the petition for writ of mandamus before the high court to avoid losing the government's ability to challenge the ruling in front of the Supreme Court.

In the petition, Baisley said Camacho's order did not include a single statutory citation, case citation, reference to legislative history, "or any

indicia of legal reasoning typical of even the most rote judicial orders."

Baisley said this was a judicial order that informed a 16-year-old victim of first degree sexual assault that the law did not protect her, and informed the public the very same.

On the contrary, he pointed out, sexual assault in the first degree is a criminal act in the CNMI.

"The Commonwealth is free to charge defendants with sexual assault in the first degree, regardless of the victim's or offender's age," he said.

Baisley said first and most generally, the trial court's order reflects a deep misunderstanding of the Commonwealth's statutory rape laws.

He said 6 CMC Sections 1306-1310 do not include a "without consent" element because "consent" is considered a legal impossibility provided the Commonwealth can demonstrate the victim is at or under a certain age and the offender is at or over a certain age.

Baisley said it is clear that the "Romeo and Juliet" exceptions contained in the Commonwealth's statutory rape laws simply do not apply to a charge of sexual assault in the first degree.

He said the trial court ignored settled principles of statutory interpretation that would have prevented its unprecedented ruling that sexual assault in the first degree is legal under certain circumstances.

Korean sues federal officials for the denial of petition for naturalization

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Korean national who lost his U.S. permanent resident status is suing U.S. Attorney General Loretta A. Lynch, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh C. Johnson, and other U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officials over the denial of his petition for naturalization.

Ho Jin Yoon, through counsel Janet H. King, is also suing USCIS director Leon Rodriguez and USCIS CNMI/Guam Field Office District Director Stephen P. Green.

Yoon asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to conduct a hearing on his naturalization application, grant him application for naturalization, and set aside the denial of his application for naturalization, and grant him U.S. citizenship.

Yoon was granted U.S. permanent resident status on Dec. 6, 1988, in Los Angeles, California. Sometime after he was granted his U.S. permanent resident status, he moved to Saipan, which at that time was not part of the U.S. for immigration purposes.

According to King, on Sept. 10, 2002, Yoon was deferred for inspection at the Guam International Airport and was questioned about his time outside the U.S. in excess of one year. Yoon was offered the option to either appear before an immigration judge or to sign Form I-407, Record of Abandonment of Lawful Resident Status. Yoon opted to sign Form I-407.

On Nov. 28, 2009, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (federalization of immigration law) was enacted, extending the Immigration and Nationality Act and other immigration laws to the CNMI.

On June 3, 2010, King said, Yoon applied for and was granted an E-2 nonimmigrant status.

Sometime after that, Yoon filed a Form N-400, Application for Naturalization.

King said that, on July 10, 2014, USCIS denied Yoon's application, based on Yoon's voluntary surrender of his permanent resident status. Yoon appealed.

On June 3, 2015, USCIS affirmed its decision, denying Yoon's naturalization application.

King said the decision states that Yoon is ineligible for naturalization because he abandoned his permanent resident status "again" by applying and obtaining an E-2 nonimmigrant status.

King said that USCIS erred as Yoon never intended to relinquish his reinstated permanent resident status as he did not voluntarily sign another Form I-407; did not voluntarily turn over his U.S. Permanent Resident Card; continued to file CNMI tax returns as a resident of the CNMI; and exhibited his continuing intent to return to the U.S.

King said to establish eligibility for naturalization under INA, Yoon must show that he meets the residence requirements prior to filing his naturalization application, he has resided continuously within the U.S. from the date of his naturalization application; and he has been and still is a person of good moral character.

King said Yoon here is eligible for naturalization.

King said Yoon has been a lawful permanent resident for over five years and during that time had and continues to reside in the U.S., and is still a person of good moral character, and has exhausted his administrative remedies.

King said the defendants' denial of Yoon's naturalization application is "arbitrary, capricious, abuse of discretion, and not in accordance with law."

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Over 300 join PCF run fundraiser for Project Ayudu

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauline_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

More than 300 individuals joined the first-ever Pacific Century Fellows-Marianas Chapter Run last Saturday. Dubbed "PCF 5K: Back on our Feet," it was intended to raise funds to help Project Ayudu.

Project Ayudu was launched by Tan Holdings and Tan Siu Lin Foundation to sell 10,000 shirts to raise \$150,000 that will be used to rebuild damaged or destroyed homes on Saipan due to Typhoon Soudelor.

"All the money is going back to the community and it's amazing to see a lot of community members come here to support our first 5K and we hope to continue this maybe every year and contribute to the community," said PCF Class of 2014 member Jackie Che.

With only a few weeks to make it happen, PCF said they are happy they were still able to meet their goal.

"We actually set a modest target of 300 and we exceeded it so we're happy for that," PCF class of 2014 Eulalia Villagomez said.

Members of the Guma' Simiyan Mañaina-ta performed a traditional blessing prior to the run.

After everyone finished the course from the Garapan Fishing Base to Quartermaster Road, raffle prizes were given away, including a trip to Japan from Delta Air Lines and gift certificates from McDonald's, Cutz and Colours, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Kanoa Resort's Isla Café and Nami Bar, and Let's Go Tours. Some appliances as well as a mountain bike were also given away.

PCF-Marianas Chapter chair Jerry Tan thanked everyone who came to the run.

"You are part of the 10,000 this morning. The very shirt that all of you are wearing right now. We'd like to say thank you for being part of this effort," Tan said.

Tan also shared that since Project Ayudu was launched about a month ago, 7,500 of the 10,000 shirts have already been sold, meaning over \$110,000 was already raised for rebuilding and long-term recovery.

"But the job is not done yet. We still have about 2,500 more to go," Tan added.

Aside from Saipan, shirts are also being sold in Guam.

"This is all going to help. Every dollar that we raise, the entire \$150,000 will be going to long-term recovery effort for the typhoon victims," Tan said.



FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

The Pacific Century Fellows-Marianas Chapter organized the first PCF 5K Run in support of Project Ayudu to help raise funds for rebuilding and long term recovery efforts on Saipan.



FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

Tan Holdings employees and staff supported the PCF 5K Run: Back on our Feet last Saturday.



FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

A lucky participant claims her new mountain bike, the second top prize of the raffle draw held after the run.



FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

PCF-Marianas Chapter chair Jerry Tan thanked those who joined the run.



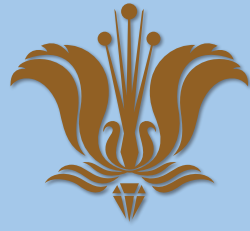
FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

Students from Mount Carmel School were among the participants of the PCF 5K Run.



FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

Members of the Guma' Simiyan Mañaina-ta performed a traditional blessing prior to the run.

**BEST SUNSHINE LIVE**

太平洋娛樂

“weRcnmi”

An Open Photography Competition

We, as a community, have an incredible spirit and the tenacity to move past difficulties and embrace the future.

It has been nearly two months after typhoon Soudelor left unimaginable destruction to our island paradise, but what continues to stand out is our unshakeable resolve to survive and our capacity to recover quickly from disasters. This characterizes our resiliency and collective spirit as one community.

Best Sunshine International is launching “weRcnmi”—an open photography competition, from the week of September 30 through October 7, 2015. Help us at Best Sunshine International to highlight our stories of resiliency, of survival and of heroic deeds, by joining this open competition.

Through your photo entries /submissions we are preserving our collective spirit that captures the stories of survival, of recovery and of those who selflessly helped others, even if they themselves were victims of typhoon Soudelor.

We invite everyone to join this competition and take a shot at the prize awaiting selected winning photos:

1st Prize: \$2,000
2nd Prize: \$1,000
3rd Prize: \$500

10 Consolation Prizes of \$100 each will be awarded.

Criteria:

- Clear photo(s) for a maximum of two (2) entries. Taken from either digital camera or phone
- Title
- Bite-size caption to describe entry
- Name/contact information
- Must not contain any graphic or offensive images

Email your entries to jcabrera@bestsunshine.com
The closing date is **October 7, 2015 at 5 pm**



Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

When does this shooting madness end?

How many more times must we shed tears when a quiet afternoon is interrupted by the most horrifying images of death and mayhem visiting a place where innocents gather?

Once again, a community's heart has been shattered, this time at Umpqua Community College in Oregon, the sort of rustic place that isn't supposed to be marred by such violent acts. A college is supposed to be a place of refuge or safety.

We don't know why this happened, but the deaths of at least 10 people in Oregon remind us that tragedy can strike at any moment. As a nation, we've been through this painful drill of sadness, empathy and anger far too many times. "Mother" Emanuel, Virginia Tech, Columbine, Sandy Hook, and even Fort Hood. The fact that all of us can identify mass shootings so easily signals just how prevalent these random acts of violence have become.

And that's why we shed tears again and again and again.

We don't care to know this shooter's name, and frankly we wish his evil actions would not be rewarded or dignified with the perverse attention that such gunmen crave. Instead, it is essential to offer comfort to those whose loss of family and friends cannot be restored. Former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, herself a victim of a deranged gunman, said it well in a tweet: A community's heart has been tested but will not be broken.

We must not allow ourselves to be prisoners to such events, as these otherwise anonymous perpetrators would want us to be. It is the way they deal with the shortcomings in their life; stealing the lives of their victims while emotionally and spiritually wounding the rest of us.

It is sad that events like these leave us numb and devoid of words to adequately convey our sorrow and anger. And as these mass shootings mount, there is a part of us that says it could have been worse. Yes, it could, but that is scant comfort because one is too many.

Mass shootings have become an American cancer, taking lives violently as it metastasizes throughout the nation. The threat ended quickly in Oregon, but not quickly enough.

Our hearts and thoughts go out to those who can never again see the faces or hear the laughs of those dear to them. We can't comprehend what drives someone to shatter so many lives so callously in just a few moments. But we stand resolute with the families and hope that this American nightmare eventually will be put to rest.

(c)2015 The Dallas Morning News

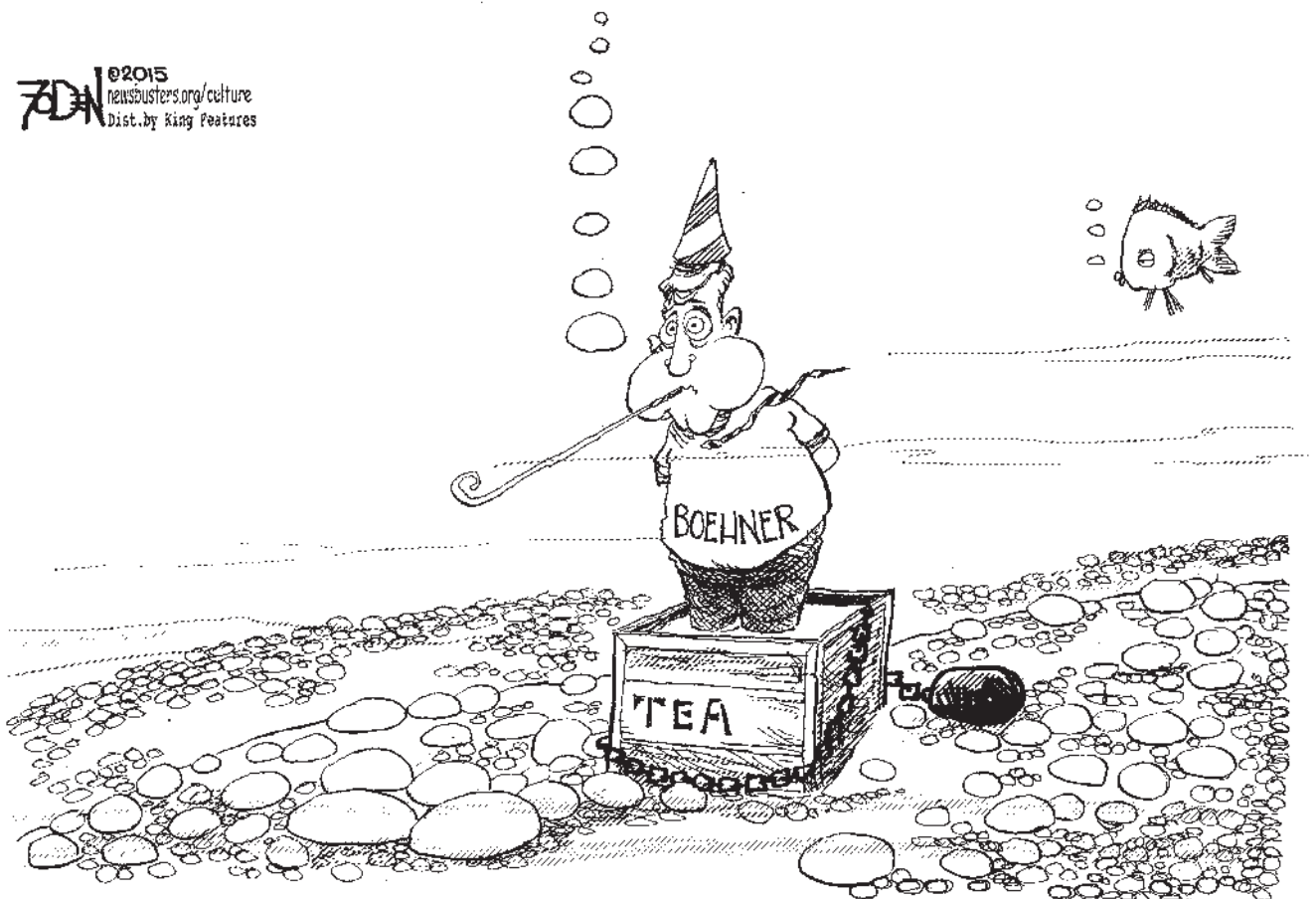
Mass shooting at Umpqua Community College is achingly familiar

Here we are again.

The litany of school shootings is achingly, depressingly familiar to Americans numbed by this sick loop. In Roseburg, Ore., a person opened fire at Umpqua Community College. Early reports put the death toll at 13. Others were wounded.

Roseburg is the archetypal small American town: a pleasant downtown in a pine-tree-dotted valley landscape. The South

See SHOOTING on Next Page

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Dist. by King Features

The POTOMAC TEA PARTY PARTY

And the nights grow long

It is my October song, of the days growing short and the nights going long.

Autumnal equinox last month in the northern hemisphere reached the equal measure of daylight and night, the polar cap tilting northward into less sunlight and the long night of arctic weather. On Saipan, it stayed overcast and cloudy with monsoon rain ready to burst into a spurt almost daily.

CUC finally got Finasisu connected to the grid. But our nights before were hot, humid, and long. Not surprisingly, my thoughts went the direction of the darkening shadows.

We started with the typhoon's death knell by the reef at the Sugar Dock beach, looking for seashells after the typhoon that found us floating toward Tinian instead. Then we shared a Seattle colleague's collegium on dying after a diagnosis of leukemia that gave him at most two years to transition from "being here" to the "journey completion."

Mid-September, we finally resumed our long awaited walk on the pathway the distance from Oleai to the JP center where the *Tribune* staff hacks a daily.

Walking the edge of the lagoon shore when the sun heat was too overwhelming in the now predominantly bare pathway, awaiting the new tree shoots to get tall enough to provide shade, the accumulated beer cans and plastic bottles against the retaining pathway wall was a plastic bag recycling pickers' delight.

A backpack blower cleared the debris as members of Parks and Recreation chopped and sawed off the downed trees and branches, along with cutting the verdant but overgrown grass. I saw the tree I planted with Japanese Rotarians between the waterless toilet and the tank at Quartermaster Road covered and then mowed.

There was a 5x3-inch stump cut to the grass level so I refrained from intoning my *Requiem to a Fallen Tree* until I see what happens next; noticing that the nearby pines have new shoots, perhaps my tree will grow again if spared the cleaners' lawn mower.

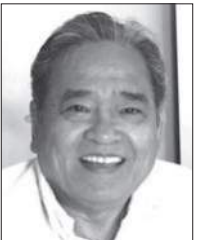
Most of the tall green lampposts are still down, the walking green light guides near Beach Road dislocated, though I know that was the case long before Soudelor. Mind you, we will use the excuse of the typhoon to refurbish a sterling tourist and local asset, the pathway. One side of the rails that cross the creek on Beach Rd. and Alus St. is down but I am sure P&R and DPW do not need me to tell them their jobs.

Going entrepreneurial, I had time under my own management and frequenting the pathway again was not a bad choice to make. I was actually set to rejoin PSS and engage high school students in their classrooms on a jaunt and a romp of world history and geography. I did not get the chance. It would have been a great valedictory to the institution I served a few years back.

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



But I got my entrepreneurial venture on language and tours started so there will be other venues to interact with audiences on historical and geographical matters. There is no shortage of tutorials for English learners, and we are combining English immersion tours on Saipan for China-originating audiences, so twining language learning and island touring offers new adventures.

I went to my local bank and car dealership where I already hold a three-year lease on an economy five-seater to add a seven-seater 4x4 (our optimism slip showing) to handle the more challenging terrain through the boonies' back roads (a friend with his ATVs do not mind keeping the roads looking "wild" and primitive).

Soudelor actually hampered many businesses, even of our favorite Russia-U.S. couple at The Shack. Our venture reeled as well, with many tourists from China cancelling, so our trip to the local bank was also to see if we can avail of a loan to get our operating expense covered, our confidence showing when we added the second vehicle. Yes, Mariya of China, I will focus on the language studio. We are creating a global Odyssey of the mind, a romp on Earthrise consciousness and a swing on Earthbound commitment while immersing language learners in English, touring the island spots in our paradise.

Perspective has become more important in how we relate to reality, looking at a glass half-empty or half-full. Reality does not change but perspective (and attitude) plays a significant part in how we act. I shall now refrain from wallowing too much in the long shadows of the night and concentrate on the bright light of the day, and perhaps, even catch up on our sleep at night when we get more of it. The nights are longer awhile!

So, how are your nights? Recall your sense experience, express your feelings and recall your thoughts, and appropriate its gifts on your deeds. Then tell someone about it. You'll taste the meat of your days and nights again, and you might savor a more refined taste on second serving.

Autumn on Saipan is neither kind nor unkind. It just is. October's reality will just be, still leaving us only with our attitude. *This is the life we have. We can live this life or throw it away. This is the life we have. We live!*

In the end, they got what they wanted

Tourism funding was cut by \$2.5 million to fund other agency needs and a 5-percent salary increase for law enforcement officers turned out to be “not equitable” because Rota and Tinian senators, along with other lawmakers, failed to ensure inclusion of those in the first and second senatorial districts.

But in the end, a number of lawmakers rewarded themselves for their role in their own sad reality show on Capital Hill via a padded leadership funding, on top of their annual salary and discretionary money.

Here’s to hoping that members of the 19th Legislature won’t waste any more time and other resources trying to override the governor’s line-item vetoes and instead heed the governor’s suggestions. These include, among other things, finding “a fair and workable plan” to raise law enforcement salaries in a separate bill and establish first a drug court so it can be legally funded.

Speaking of salary hikes: A few days after passing a compromise budget bill, most members of the House of Representatives approved a salary increase for casino commissioners from

\$40,000 to \$65,000 and the commission executive director from \$85,000 to \$100,000.

These individuals regulate a few-months-old “live training” casino facility, the size and cost of which is a tiny dot out of the promised \$7.1 billion integrated resort investment on Saipan that got most elected officials excited—and ready to do just about everything. Not one of the House members who approved the salary hikes was able to justify the pay increase itself without dragging the other portions of House Bill 19-95 to the reasoning, such as “the bill will fund retirees’ 25 percent pension” or “will also secure funding for the casino commission’s staff to continue working and executing their duties...” The unjustifiable salary increase shouldn’t have been included in the bill in the first place.

Either the senators can partly redeem themselves by not accepting HB 19-95 in its current form, or Gov. Eloy S. Inos could once again make reasonable use of his line-item veto for the salary increase and other problematic provisions of the bill, among other things.

Moreover, forcing a vote on a substitute bill on the same day

The law that made America diverse

Before 1965, the United States was 85 percent white. Today, racial and ethnic minorities make up one-third of the population. Before 1965, the immigrant stream was largely European. Today, most new arrivals to this country come from Mexico, China and India. The passage of the 1965 Hart-Celler Immigration Act, 50 years ago this month, made these changes possible.

Contrary to what pundits often suggest, however, Hart-Celler wasn’t an unmitigated good for all ethnic groups. In fact, it set Asians and Latinos on divergent paths, with consequences that continue to reverberate today.

Starting in the late 19th century, race-based restrictions kept Asian immigration to a trickle. The 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act largely did what the name suggests; by 1924 Congress had barred all Asian groups. Eventually this complete prohibition gave way to a nominal quota system, but it wasn’t until Hart-Celler that lawmakers finally abandoned blatantly racist immigration policy.

As the standard-bearer against communism seeking to consolidate support in Vietnam, the United States had attracted international criticism of its racist policies that it could ill afford.

SHOOTING

From Page 10

Umpqua River runs through town, and offers some of the state’s best steelhead and bass fishing. The 3,000-student college is just north of town, on a hill overlooking the river; it is a beautiful setting.

The gun culture is ingrained in Roseburg, in Douglas County and in southern Oregon. NRA stickers and gun racks are a frequent sight. Deer and elk hunting is a common pursuit.

Oregon weathered a mass shooting at a mall in Clackamas County outside Portland in 2012, and another last year at Reynolds High School in Portland. And now this. Again.

We’ll watch the shocking reports and dreadful funerals of young lives cut short by gun violence. President Barack Obama decried the shooting and asserted that he needed partners in Congress and state legislatures to change gun control laws. Members of Congress will disagree on news programs. The NRA will deflect responsibility. And, alas, we will return to regular programming: inaction.

It will happen again and again and again, in malls, schools, in movie theaters, restaurants, churches, offices and any other place where large numbers of people gather in peace.

The president is correct. Until Congress and state legislatures do something meaningful, we will be hostages to this soul-shattering lunacy.

The question is this: How many times will we sit back and experience the déjà vu of mass carnage dealt by a madman with a firearm?

The shooter was a troubled young man who warned people the evening before the attack in an online story-telling forum that they shouldn’t attend college classes in the Northwest. He was pronounced dead at a hospital after a shootout with police, after he had killed and wounded so many others.

Columbine High School in Colorado, Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut, and Cleveland Elementary School in Stockton, Calif., are some of the others on this too-well-traveled trail. This was the 45th school shooting this year, according to the American Federation of Teachers.

It will keep happening in big cities and small towns like Roseburg, an otherwise beautiful, tranquil place. How many times do we need to watch this happen?

(c)2015 The Sacramento Bee (Sacramento, Calif.)

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Haidee V. Eugenio is a veteran journalist in the CNMI.



it’s finalized—as what the House leadership did with HB 19-95—is plain reckless, irresponsible, and unreasonable.

Many members of the current House leadership need not be reminded that they themselves were a part of the minority in the previous Legislatures who, at the time, were fighting tooth and nail to be given an opportunity to be heard just like when they pushed for the impeachment of a former governor over corruption, neglect of duty and felony.

The others are still fence sitters.

By JANE HONG

Los Angeles Times

Jane Hong is assistant professor of history at Occidental College. She is writing a book on the transpacific movement to repeal U.S. Asian Exclusion laws. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



Pacific Islanders are deported at a rate three times higher than other groups.

Politicians would do well to recognize this convergence. Instead they have sought to pit one group against the other, as in Jeb Bush’s attempted backpedaling on his use of the charged term “anchor babies” a month ago, when he suggested that Asian, not Latino, birth tourism was the real problem.

A strategy of division is a losing proposition for all. Asian-Americans, Latino Americans and others have more to gain by banding together than fighting among themselves. And for candidates looking to attract votes, the numbers tell the real story. In 2013, China and India passed Mexico as the countries sending the most immigrants to the United States. A report released this week suggests that by the 2050s, Asians will surpass Latinos as the largest stream of immigrants to the United States. By then, Latino Americans will make up nearly one-quarter of U.S. residents. No one is expendable.

As they seek to address undocumented migration and related issues, today’s Congress may have reason to envy its 1965 predecessor. One pundit, writing in 2008, called Hart-Celler the “most important piece of legislation that no one’s ever heard of” because it created the diverse electorate that put Barack Obama in the White House. “No one” includes the voters of 1965, few of whom closely followed the Hart-Celler debate. In the early 1960s, immigration rarely garnered headlines, leaving political elites to debate and decide the terms of the 1965 act’s passage largely among themselves. Widespread consensus in Washington that the United States needed some kind of immigration overhaul was enough to create action. That is clearly not the case today.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Open letter to the commandant of the Marine Corps and the Secretary of the Navy

Secretary Mabus and General Neller: This is an open letter addressed to you both to ask that the Navy Department consider naming the future Marine Corps Base in Guam after Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Vicente T. “Ben” Blaz (deceased).

Camp Lejeune is named after Marine Lt. Gen. John Archer Lejeune. Camp Pendleton is named after Marine Maj. Gen. Joseph Henry Pendleton. It is logical and makes perfect sense to name the future Marine Corps Base in Guam after Brig. Gen. Vicente T. “Ben” Blaz because Ben was Chamorro from Ordot, Guam and he was the first non-white officer in Marine Corps history to become a general officer, according to the *Washington Post*.

Vicente Blaz was also the only Marine general to ever be freed from Japanese occupation (or liberated by Marines) as a kid during July of 1944 as U.S. forces retook Guam from the Japanese. Vicente Blaz was non-proficient in American English prior to departing Guam after the war, growing up speak-

ing Chamorro and so he also had to simultaneously overcome language challenges during college when he left for Notre Dame University in Indiana to attend college on scholarship. Not everyone can get into Notre Dame, let alone simultaneously learn a second language and get through Notre Dame on scholarship in three years.

After retirement from the Marine Corps, Brig. Gen. Blaz went on to become a four-term Member of Congress and on top of that was a prolific writer, a published author and an honors graduate of the United States Naval War College.






At the very least, serious consideration to this idea should be given because it would help to properly recognize a Chamorro warrior, a Chamorro hero, and an American patriot from the southernmost island of the Mariana Islands, the island of Guam.

Rick Perez

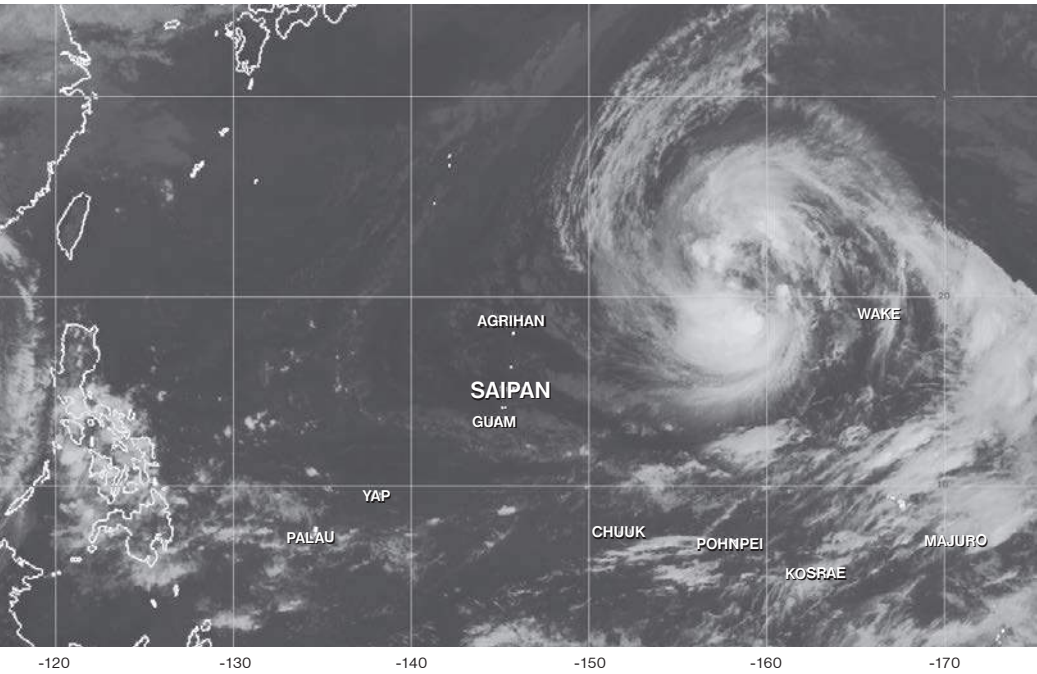
Hanover, NH

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
 Partly cloudy. North winds around 9 mph.	 Mostly sunny.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲82° ▼76°	▲82° ▼76°	▲82° ▼77°	▲82° ▼77°	▲82° ▼76°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Choi-wan (23W) is centered 445 miles west of Wake Island near 20N159E, moving west-northwest at 21 mph with maximum sustained winds of 60 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen south of the center between 16N and 21N from 155E to 162E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found north of the center between 21N and 25N from 156E to 164E. For more information on Choi-wan, refer to bulletins issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ32 PGUM and Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW. A monsoon trough extends northeastward from Mindanao across 8N130E through a weak circulation centered near Koror at 9N137E to Tropical Storm Choi-wan, then turns southeastward to beyond the date line at 15N. Widely scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present south of the trough across Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae and Kwajalein between 3N and 13N from 151E to 168E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼79
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼81
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼80
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼81
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲86	▼80
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼82
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼82

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Sunny	▲60	▼53
Beijing	Sunny	▲80	▼47
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼79
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼74
London	Clear	▲65	▼58
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲74	▼60
Manila	Haze	▲88	▼78
Melbourne	Fair	▲87	▼54
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼74
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼50
Osaka	Fair	▲74	▼57
Paris	Sunny	▲48	▼39
Busan	Fair	▲73	▼56
Rome	Fair	▲79	▼63
Salem	Sunny	▲80	▼44
San Francisco	Fair	▲72	▼56
Seoul	Clear	▲73	▼49
Tokyo	Fair	▲66	▼56
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼51



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
12:53 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
8:28 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
3:51 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
9:26 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:07 AM	6:04 PM
Tuesday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Wednesday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:02 PM
Friday	6:08 AM	6:01 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	-	12:42 PM
Tuesday	12:29 AM	1:31 PM
Wednesday	1:20 AM	2:16 PM
Thursday	2:10 AM	2:58 PM
Friday	2:58 AM	3:38 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 2, 2015

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7
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ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7
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SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT
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SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	4, 5
7C3401	3:15pm	7:35pm	3, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
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SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
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SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 3, 5, 7
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SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
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SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/701	2:25am	11:05am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/701	3:20am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/721	2:25am	11:50am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:20am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4
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ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4
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PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT
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NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	8:45am	2:15pm	3, 5, 6
7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ6053	7:55pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
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SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
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BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
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GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
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MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/6053	12:15pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	1:50pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/6053	1:10pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:35pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

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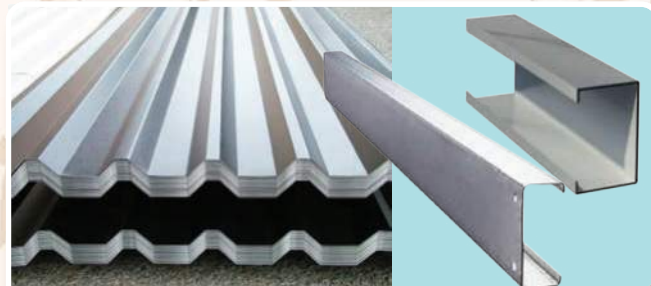
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Rotary Club of Saipan vocational services director Wendell Posadas hands out dictionaries to third graders of the Grace Christian Academy as their dictionary distribution project for school year 2015-16 commenced last Thursday.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

Rotary Club starts dictionary distribution

By **FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA**
frauline_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan began their dictionary distribution on Thursday for school year 2015-2016.

The club's annual project is gives away dictionaries to third graders in all schools, both public and private, on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The project is headed this year by Rotary vocational services director Wendell Posadas.

For their first stop, the Rotary Club went to Grace Christian Academy where a class of 23 was able to receive dictionaries.

Posadas also shared with students the Rotary Club's Four-Way Test, which is an ethical guide for Rotarians for

their personal and professional relationships.

According to Posadas, they have more than 700 dictionaries now but will need to order more.

"It's our target to distribute everything before the year ends," Posadas said.

He added that they will also be giving away dictionaries to some of the third graders last year—who are now fourth graders—who didn't get one.

Tinian Grace Christian Academy and Agape School in Saipan ended classes last year before Rotary Club was able to schedule a distribution.

For school year 2014-2015, Rotary distributed a total of 886 dictionaries to nine public schools and 11 private schools.

WIOA Dislocated Worker Funding Program

If any of these categories apply to you, please contact WIA.

Category A: General Dislocated Workers. To qualify, an individual must meet the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment;
2. Is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation; OR has been employed or attached to the workforce for a duration sufficient to demonstrate to WIOA, but is not eligible for unemployment compensation due to insufficient earnings or having performed services for an employer that were not covered under a state unemployment compensation law; and
3. Is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation.

Category B: Plant Closure. To qualify, an individual must meet one of the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at, plant, facility, or enterprise;
2. Is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility close within 180 days; or
3. For purpose of eligibility to receive services other than training, intensive or supportive services under WIOA, is employed at a facility at which the employer has made general announcement that such facility will close.

Category C: Self Employed or Unemployed. To qualify, an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. Was self employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters.

Category D: is a displaced homemaker;

DISPLACED HOMEMAKER—The term "displaced homemaker" means an individual who has been providing unpaid services to family members in the home and who—

- (A) (i) has been dependent on the income of another family member but is no longer supported by that income; or (ii) is the dependent spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty (as defined in section 101(d)(1) of title 10, United States Code) and whose family income is significantly reduced because of a deployment (as defined in section 991(b) of title 10, United States Code, or pursuant to paragraph (4) of such section), a call or order to active duty pursuant to a provision of law referred to in section 101(a)(13)(B) of title 10, United States Code, a permanent change of station, or the service-connected (as defined in section 101(16) of title 38, United States Code) death or disability of the member; and
- (B) is unemployed or underemployed and is experiencing difficulty in obtaining or upgrading employment.

Category E:

1. Is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty (as defined in section 101(d)(1) of title 10, United States Code), and who has experienced a loss of employment as a direct result of relocation to accommodate a permanent change in duty station of such member; or
2. Is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty and who meets the criteria described in Displaced Homemaker Definition (B).

You may be able to qualify for services under WIOA's Dislocated Worker Funding Program. All other program eligibility requirements apply.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Saipan: (670) 664-1704/1707/1708/1757 • Fax: (670) 664-1710
Email: gov.wia@pticom.com

'Climate change adaptation' a strategic priority for OIA technical assistance funding

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina has announced that for fiscal year 2016, climate change adaptation planning, assessment, and implementation will receive the highest priority for technical assistance program funding through the Office of Insular Affairs. This action by the assistant secretary follows through on a commitment made to insular area leaders in Guam at the U.S. Insular Areas Climate Change Stakeholder's meeting in June.

OIA will begin accepting TAP applications for fiscal year 2016 funding on Oct. 1, 2015, through the Grants.gov under CFDA # 15.875. Once OIA has received full year 2016 appropriations, TAP applications will be processed for funding on a first-come, first-serve basis until program funds are exhausted. The deadline for applications will be March 1, 2016.

"We are prioritizing TAP funding to respond to the effects of climate change in the U.S. territories and freely associated states," said Kia'aina. "The island communities with whom we work continue to face extreme climate events, including typhoons and hurricanes, storm surges, high winds, and king tides. These insular areas are already feeling the effects of slow, progressive climate-in-

duced stresses, such as sea level rise, ocean acidification, coral bleaching, and saline intrusion into freshwater systems."

The call for action in combatting climate change as a strategic priority within OIA is based on the adverse impacts of climate change in the insular areas, scientific evidence, and urgent requests by island leaders for U.S. assistance. It is also supported by a series of federal and department-level decrees on climate change.

Dating back to 2009, a series of Presidential Executive Orders and Interior Secretarial Orders have been adopted that call upon U.S. federal agencies to take actions to curb carbon emissions, and to adopt a more proactive posture in mainstreaming climate change across federal programs,

and modernizing programs to support resilient federal investments. Most important among these is President Obama's Climate Action Plan, released in June 2013, followed in November by Executive Order 13653 - Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change.

A copy of the report from the U.S. Insular Areas Climate Change Stakeholder's meeting, June 4-5, 2015, is available on the Office of Insular Affairs website at www.doi.gov/oia. (OIA)

SBA tops \$10 million in disaster assistance loans

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Director Jane Sawyer of the U.S. Small Business Administration's Hawaii District office announced Friday that SBA has approved more than \$10.1 million in federal disaster loans for

Saipan businesses and residents impacted by Typhoon Soudelor that occurred Aug. 1-3, 2015.

According to Sawyer, SBA has approved \$5,314,000 for businesses and \$4,810,700 for residents to help rebuild and re-

cover from this disaster.

"SBA's disaster assistance employees are committed to helping businesses and residents rebuild as quickly as possible," said Sawyer.

Businesses and residents who

sustained damage are encouraged to register prior to today's deadline with the Federal Emergency Management Agency by calling the tele-registration number at (800) 621-FEMA (3362) or (800) 462-7585 (TTY) for individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

"Don't miss out on any assistance you may be entitled to by not registering for help. You don't need to wait for your insurance to settle or obtain a contractor's estimate," she added.

SBA continues to provide one-on-one assistance to disaster loan applicants at the Disaster Recovery Center at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm. No appointment is necessary.

Businesses of all sizes and

private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. The SBA can also lend additional funds to help business and residents with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

For small businesses and most private nonprofit organizations of all sizes, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace their damaged

or destroyed primary residence. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application via SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

Disaster loan information and application forms are also available from SBA's Customer Service Center by calling (800) 659-2955 or emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing may call (800) 877-8339.

The filing deadline to submit applications for property damage is today, Oct. 5, 2015. The deadline to submit economic injury applications is May 5, 2016. **(SBA)**

Young professionals highlight Chamorro culture

The Saipan Young Professionals enjoyed an evening of great food and entertainment at their barbecue/potluck dinner on Sept. 26, ending their month of "tourism" with a focus on the importance of showcasing and understanding the Chamorro culture.

Aside from featuring local delicacies, they also featured a special dinner show performance by a Chamorro cultural group called "Guma' Simiyan Mañaina-ta," a non-profit organization that aims to give individuals an opportunity to experience the uniqueness of the Chamorro culture through visual and performing arts.

Founder Luis John "L.J." Castro shared information about their group, stating that the performers that evening were comprised of young teenagers from the high school and early college level. He said the group recently traveled to Guam to perform at the 2015 Chamorro Dance Competition and Festival. Aside from performing abroad, the group also performs at festivals on island including the Annual

Flame Tree Arts Festival.

"We decided to feature a Chamorro performance to highlight our unique culture. Their performance was one-of-kind and all the songs were sung in Chamorro, giving everyone a truly cultural experience complete with Chamorro language and dance," said SYP chair Mable Ayuyu.

She shared that the committee, this month, learned the significance of giving tourists an understanding of the "Chamorro" culture.

"Much of what we see in hotel dinner shows features Polynesian dancing, which we enjoy because it's exciting and entertaining. However, it's even more significant to explore the idea of featuring the very thing that makes us unique," Ayuyu said.

The performance featured a cultural blend of Chamorro-sung songs and dancing (including a fire dance). SYP member Thomas Basa Jr. of MARPAC said, "I loved it! What better way to tell our ancestors' stories and cultures through music,

chants, and dance."

SYP member Camille Orallo of Tan Holdings said, "It was really nice taking a breather from our busy work schedules to come together for a nice dinner under the stars. The performance by the Guma' Simiyan Mañaina-ta group was breathtaking!"

The SYP Committee extends its deepest appreciation to Guma' Simiyan Mañaina-ta board chair Elaine Cabrera, Castro, and all the group performers and musicians.

"To all the cultural groups like Guma' Simiyan Mañaina-ta, we thank you for continuing to keep our culture alive," said Ayuyu, adding that the Saipan Young Professionals Committee is proud to support and advocates for groups like the one that performed for them.

For more information about the Saipan Young Professionals Committee, visit www.saipanchamber.com or call (670) 234-7150. The Saipan Young Professionals is a Committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. **(SYP)**



Saipan Young Professionals Committee members enjoy this month's mixer.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Guma' Simiyan Mañaina-ta Cultural Group performs at SYP's August gathering.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Business

Obama: No more temporary spending bills, budget deal needed

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama said Friday he won't sign another temporary government funding bill after the current one expires Dec. 11, insisting that congressional Republicans and Democrats work out a long-term budget deal with the White House.

Obama said such a deal should lift a freeze on the budgets of both the Pentagon and domestic agencies. Speaking at a White House news conference, he said he "won't sign another shortsighted spending bill" and asserted that the U.S. can't cut its way to prosperity.

"Congress has to do its job. It can't flirt with another shutdown," Obama said.

On the so-called debt limit, which needs to be raised above the current \$18.1 trillion cap by early November, Obama said he won't repeat a 2011 negotiation over companion spending cuts that brought the nation to the brink of a first-ever default on its obligations.

"We're not going back there," he said, adding: "Historically, we do not mess with it. If it gets messed with, it would have profound implications for the global economy and could put our financial system in the kind of tailspin that we saw back in 2007 and 2008. ... It has to get done in the next five weeks."

Neither position was new or surprising, but the president's



AP
President Barack Obama gestures as he answers question during a news conference in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington, Friday, Oct. 2, 2015.

statements came after Capitol Hill was roiled by the resignation of House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio. He decided to leave Congress after a revolt among tea party forces who wanted him to use a temporary spending bill to force Obama to take away Planned Parenthood's federal funding. The same con-

servatives generally opposed lifting tight caps on spending set by the 2011 budget deal.

Talks on spending were just beginning and were expected to focus on finding long-term cuts elsewhere in the budget to permit higher spending on the day-to-day operations of government agencies. Agreement

will be difficult, in large part because of a lack of politically easy spending cuts and disagreement over how to use any money from the cuts.

Four years ago Obama agreed to spending cuts in exchange for getting a \$2.1 trillion debt limit increase through Congress. Since then he has twice refused

to negotiate over the debt-ceiling issue and Congress has lifted the debt limit both times with sweeping support from Democrats.

Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew informed Congress on Thursday that it needs to act by Nov. 5, earlier than most on Capitol Hill had thought. The issue probably will need to be dealt with before Boehner leaves at the end of the October.

Obama said that Boehner's resignation, which has sparked GOP infighting in a handful of House leadership races, complicated the situation. But Boehner said he would like to clean out Congress' barn of as much unfinished business as possible and he may have more leeway now that he didn't have to worry about tea party lawmakers demanding his scalp.

Abortion, birth control, race top Supreme Court's agenda

WASHINGTON (AP)—Abortion, birth control and race are among the most divisive issues the Supreme Court will confront over the next nine months, amid a presidential election campaign in which some candidates are talking pointedly about the justices and the prospect of replacing some of them in the next few years.

The justices are returning to the bench on Monday for the start of their new term and their first public appearance together since a number of high-profile decisions in June that displayed passionate, sometimes barbed,

disagreements and suggested some bruised feelings among the nine judges.

The three-month break probably is a good thing, Justice Samuel Alito noted in a speech at the University of Kentucky last month. By late June, "We tend to be kind of angry with each other," Alito said.

No single case before the justices in the new term holds the significance of the court's 5-4 decision in June that extended the right to marriage to gay and lesbian couples nationwide.

But the author of that opinion, Justice Anthony Kennedy, prob-

ably will play a similarly decisive role in the most important cases to be heard by the court. "On issue after issue, Kennedy provides the deciding vote," said conservative commentator Ed Whelan, no fan of Kennedy.

The court's lineup already includes, or likely will:

■ Regulation of abortion clinics in Texas that could leave large parts of the second-most populous state without any abortion providers.

■ Yet another battle over President Barack Obama's health care overhaul, involving the religious rights of faith-affili-

ated colleges, hospitals and charities and the provision of no-cost birth control to women covered by those groups' health plans.

■ Another round from the University of Texas over the consideration of race, among many factors, in college admissions.

■ A challenge over drawing electoral districts in Texas that could affect representation of immigrant-heavy urban areas.

■ A fight to strip labor unions that represent government workers of their right to collect fees from non-union employees who benefit from the unions' work in collective bargaining.

An ailing global economy starts to weigh on the US job market

WASHINGTON (AP)—A sagging global economy has finally caught up with the United States.

Nervous employers pulled back on hiring in August and September as China's economy slowed, global markets sank and foreigners bought fewer U.S. goods. Friday's monthly jobs report from the government suggested that the U.S. economy, which has been outshining others around the world, may be weakening.

Lackluster growth overseas has reduced exports of U.S. factory goods and cut into the overseas profits of large companies. Canada, the largest U.S. trading partner, is in recession. China, the second-largest economy after the United States, is growing far more slowly. And emerging economies, from Brazil to Turkey, are straining to grow at all.

A result is that economists now expect the Federal Reserve to delay a long-awaited increase in interest rates, possibly until next year.

Employers added just 142,000 jobs in September, and the government sharply lowered its estimate of gains in July and August by a combined 59,000. Monthly job growth averaged a mediocre 167,000 in the July-September quarter, down from 231,000 in the April-June period.

The unemployment rate remained a low 5.1 percent, but only because many Americans have stopped looking for work

and are no longer counted as unemployed. The proportion of adults who either have a job or are looking for one is at a 38-year low.

U.S. stock prices have tumbled as fears of a global slowdown have intensified. Volatile financial markets can make businesses too anxious to expand and hire.

"We're back to a period of what I call corporate caution," says Nariman Behraves, chief economist at IHS. "It's wait and see. If things stabilize, we could see hiring come back."

On Friday, the Dow Jones industrial average fell about 200 points soon after the jobs report was issued before recovering to close up 200. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note dipped below 2 percent, a sign that investors anticipate sluggish growth and low inflation.

Over the past year, the dollar has risen about 15 percent against overseas currencies, making U.S. goods costlier overseas and imports cheaper. Declining exports have led many analysts to slash their growth estimates for the July-September quarter to a subpar 1.5 percent annual rate or less.

Heavy equipment maker Caterpillar has said it will cut up to 5,000 jobs by year's end. Lower oil prices have hurt its sales of drilling equipment, and overseas sales of its construction machines have fallen.

Spanish police probe garages offering emission cheating

MADRID (AP)—Spanish police have cracked down on a string of garages that allegedly provided customers with mechanical and software services that enabled their cars to cheat emission checks in a scam similar to that which has engulfed Volkswagen, a statement said Saturday.

Police said a tip-off led them to discover that eight garages in Madrid had been removing diesel filters and reprogramming software so that motors could deliver more power, be cheaper to service and fool emissions testing equipment.

The garages charged customers 100-200 euros (\$112-224) to remove diesel particulate filters, thus improving performance and reducing servicing costs that can amount to 1,200 euros (\$1,345), they said.

The reprogrammed software offered as part of the package then made the harmful emissions issued by the tampered-with engines undetectable, a police statement said.

Police did not immediately say how many people were arrested in the investigation, which is ongoing. So far, police have gathered enough informa-

tion to suggest that more than 80 garages throughout Spain have been offering performance-enhancing and emission test cheating services.

Investigators discovered that some garages specialized in the removal of filters, whose function is to collect diesel soot, while others concentrated on manipulating the vehicles' electronics systems.

Diesel engines that have the filter removed freely emit particles into the air, "something that degrades the atmosphere considerably," the statement said.

The police statement, issued by the Interior Ministry, said the software that reprogrammed the cars' computers was so effective it was able to make the pollution produced undetectable to machines supplied to government testing centers and even to the specialized equipment developed by the vehicles' manufacturers.

All of the exhaust-tampering services were advertised openly online and inside the garages, the statement said. Some garages worked on car computers that were delivered to them regularly by post.

Nation

Gusty wind may add to weather risks on soggy East Coast

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)—Flooding from days of record-setting rain along the heavily populated East Coast washed out bridges and homes and forecasters warned wind gusts topping 35 mph could down trees and power lines across the Carolinas and Virginia in coming hours.

At least five weather-related deaths have been reported since rains began spreading over the Eastern Seaboard, which has appeared to dodge the full fury of Hurricane Joaquin churning hundreds of miles out in the Atlantic.

President Barack Obama declared a state of emergency in South Carolina and ordered federal aid to bolster state and local efforts as flood warnings remained in effect for many parts of the East Coast through Sunday.

The steady downpour drew its moisture from a slow-moving low-pressure system over the Southeast that has linked up to a finger of tropical moisture from Hurricane Joaquin. Heavy rain was expected to continue overnight in the Carolinas and parts of northern Georgia and could cause some significant river and stream flooding, the National Weather Service said.

The low-pressure system also was expected to whip up stiff



northeasterly winds in the Blue Ridge mountains of the Carolinas and western Virginia with gusts up to 35 mph through Sunday, the weather service said. With tree roots already loosened in water-logged soil, increased winds held the prospect of toppling trees onto

power lines or property.

"We're not out of the woods yet," North Carolina emergency management director Mike Sprayberry said late Saturday.

High winds toppled a tree that hit a vehicle and killed a

passenger Thursday near Fayetteville, North Carolina. Three people died in separate weather-related traffic incidents in South Carolina on Friday and Saturday, the Highway Patrol said. A drowning in Spartan-

burg, South Carolina, also was linked to the storm.

The Greenville-Spartanburg Airport in South Carolina recorded 2.3 inches of rain Saturday, smashing the previous record of 0.77 inches set in

AP
Brothers Logan Froehler, 17, at left, and Lukas, 11, throw a football while kayaking in their backyard on the Isle of Palms, S.C. on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2015.

1961, according to John Tomko, National Weather Service meteorologist at Greenville-Spartanburg.

"This one is extraordinary in that it's such a prolonged event," he said.

Downtown Charleston was closed off to incoming traffic Saturday as rain flooded roads and left some motorists stranded as flood waters engulfed their cars, including a white BMW with water to the engine. At least two bridges were washed out in other parts of the state.

"Where we normally are dealing with flooding for a few hours, we're dealing with it in days here," Charleston Police Chief Greg Mullen told The Associated Press. "We're seeing areas flood today that did not traditionally flood."

Flooded roads were closed throughout the mid-Atlantic region and power companies reported scattered outages in several states.

ACROSS THE NATION

FDNY: 1 dead, 3 others injured in apparent gas blast

NEW YORK (AP)—Officials suspect a recently disconnected stove may have caused an apparent gas explosion Saturday that killed a woman and injured three others in Brooklyn. City Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro said firefighters received a call around 1 p.m. reporting an explosion at a building in the Borough Park neighborhood. When emergency crews arrived, they found the entire front of the three-story building blown into the street, he said at a news conference Saturday evening. Officials suspect the explosion originated in an apartment on the second floor, where a tenant had recently disconnected a stove. The fire commissioner said no one had reported smelling gas in the area.

Arrest made in murder-for-hire of Dallas pediatric dentist

DALLAS (AP)—A man has been arrested in the murder-for-hire shooting death of a pediatric dentist and an arrest warrant has been issued for a woman suspected of hiring him, police said Friday. Dallas Police Maj. Max Geron said Kristopher Love, 31, has been charged with capital murder in the Sept. 2 death of Kendra

Hatcher. Geron said Love, also charged with unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon, has been identified as the person who shot Hatcher in her apartment complex's parking garage. He said that when Love was arrested, he was in possession of the gun believed to have been used in the killing of Hatcher, 35.

Official: 25 hurt in collapse of concrete awning at school

OLIN, N.C. (AP)—A concrete canopy collapsed Saturday on a group of band students who had gathered outside a North Carolina high school shortly before a competition, leaving 25 people injured, authorities said. Dr. Howard Bell of Iredell Emergency Medical Services confirmed the injury total to reporters after the awning collapse outside the entrance to North Iredell High School in Olin, about 55 miles north of Charlotte. At least one student was taken to a Winston-Salem hospital with potentially life-threatening injuries, authorities said, without elaborating. "Our thoughts and prayers are with our students, and we understand that some of the parents may have been injured as well," Iredell-Statesville Schools Superintendent Brady Johnson said.

Survivor: Gunman spared 'lucky one' to give police message

ROSEBURG, Ore. (AP)—The gunman who opened fire in an Oregon college shot one classmate after saying he could save her life by begging, and others were killed after being told to crawl across the floor, according to relatives of students in the classroom.

However, Christopher Sean Harper-Mercer spared a student and gave the "lucky one" something to deliver to authorities, according to the mother of a student who witnessed Thursday's rampage.

Authorities have not disclosed whether they have an envelope or package from

Harper-Mercer, who Douglas County Sheriff John Hanlin said Saturday killed himself as officers arrived. But a law enforcement official said a manifesto of several pages had been recovered.

Bonnie Schaan, the mother of 16-year-old Cheyenne Fitzgerald, said she was told by her 16-year-old daughter that the gunman gave someone an envelope and told him to go to a corner of the classroom.

Harper-Mercer said the person "was going to be the lucky one," Schaan told reporters outside a hospital where her daughter's kidney was re-

moved after she was shot.

Relatives of other survivors of the shooting that killed nine also said Harper-Mercer gave something to a student in the class.

Pastor Randy Scroggins, whose 18-year-old daughter Lacey escaped without physical injuries, said she told him that the gunman called to a student, saying: "Don't worry, you're the one who is going to survive."

Harper-Mercer then told the student that inside the shooter's backpack was "all the information that you'll need, give it to the police," Scroggins said, cit-

ing the account by his daughter.

Scroggins also said his daughter heard the gunman tell one victim he would spare that person's life if the student begged, then shot the begging victim anyway.

Lacey Scroggins also spoke about students being ordered to crawl to the middle of the room before being shot. Scroggins said his daughter survived because she was lying on the floor and partially covered by the body and blood of a fellow student. The gunman thought Lacey Scroggins was dead as well, stepped over her and shot someone else.

Gay former student of Pope Francis' speaks out

WASHINGTON (AP)—An openly gay former student of Pope Francis' who visited with the pope during his recent trip to Washington said Saturday he was surprised Francis had met with the Kentucky county clerk who gained attention for refusing to issue same-sex couples marriage licenses.

The pope's meeting with Washington resident Yayo Grassi, his boyfriend and a few others came to light Friday as the Vatican was distancing itself from claims the pope's meeting with the clerk, Kim Davis, was an endorsement of her stance on same-sex marriage.

Grassi, 67, met Francis more than 50 years ago when the fu-

ture pope taught at his all boys school in Argentina. They reconnected in 2008, and since becoming pope Francis has since met him and his boyfriend of 17 years twice, once in Rome and most recently in Washington, Grassi said.

Grassi, who came to the United States in 1978 and runs a catering business, spoke with The Associated Press at his home Saturday.

On what he thought of the pope's meeting with Davis:

"I thought, 'This is really strange. This is not like him,'" he said.

He said he told friends who were quick to criticize that they should not rush to judg-

ment and that he didn't think they had all the facts. The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, declined to say who invited Davis or what the pope knew of her case but such encounters are arranged by the Vatican ambassador and his staff, not the pope's delegation or the U.S. bishops' conference.

Grassi said after the Davis story came out and he was contacted by the media he thought: "Perhaps this is the time to defend him. I owe him that as a friend, not because he is a friend but because I know part of the truth."

Grassi said "encouraging somebody who is so divisive" like Davis would be out of char-

acter for Francis.

"Here is this guy that is so much into integrating everybody, communicating with everybody," Grassi said, adding he was "500 percent sure" the pope did not initiate the meeting with Davis.

On exchanging e-mail with Pope Francis, then Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Argentina, when the country was debating legalizing same-sex marriage, which it did in 2010:

"I remember reading excerpts from the press saying that Cardinal Bergoglio had said ... things that were extremely negative. I immediately thought 'This is not like the Bergoglio that I know, not the person that I loved so much when I was growing up,'" he said.

Asia

Doctors Without Borders: 19 dead in Afghan clinic airstrike

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Confusion reigned in the wake of the deadly bombing Saturday of a hospital compound in the northern Afghan city of Kunduz that killed at least 19 people and wounded dozens more. It remains unclear exactly who bombed the hospital run by Doctors Without Borders and the international medical charity has demanded an investigation into the incident.

Doctors Without Borders said that “all indications” pointed to the international military coalition as responsible for the bombing and called for an independent investigation. U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter said an inquiry was underway into whether the carnage at the clinic was caused by an airstrike from an American fighter jet, while Afghan officials said helicopter gunships had returned fire from Taliban fighters hiding in the compound.

Afghan forces backed by U.S. airstrikes have been battling the Taliban street-by-street in Kunduz since Thursday to dislodge insurgents who seized the strategic city three days earlier in their biggest foray into a major urban area since the U.S.-led invasion of 2001. The insurgents have had the city encircled for months, and overran it in a sur-



Afghan security forces take a wounded civilian man to the hospital after Taliban fighter's attack, in Kunduz city, north of Kabul, Afghanistan, Saturday, Oct. 3, 2015.

prise assault that embarrassed the U.S.-backed Afghan government and called into question the competence of the U.S.-funded Afghan armed forces.

Army Col. Brian Tribus, a spokesman for American forces

in Afghanistan, said a U.S. airstrike on Kunduz at 2:15 a.m. “may have resulted in collateral damage to a nearby medical facility” and that the incident was under investigation. He said it was the 12th U.S. air-

strike “in the Kunduz vicinity” since Tuesday.

Doctors Without Borders, also known by the French acronym MSF, said its trauma center “was hit several times during sustained bombing and

was very badly damaged.” At the time, the hospital had 105 patients and their caretakers, and more than 80 international and Afghan staff, it said.

The medical group did not say whether insurgents were present inside the compound as the Afghan Ministry of Defense claimed, and it was not im-

mediately clear whether the staffers were killed by the Taliban or Afghan or U.S. forces. Doctors Without Borders said another 30 people were still missing after the incident.

The dead included 12 staffers and seven patients from the intensive care unit, among them three children, it said. A total of 37 people were injured, including 19 staff members, and 18 patients and caretakers. Five of the injured staff members were in critical condition.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani expressed his sorrow and said he and the commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, U.S. Army Gen. John Campbell, had “agreed to launch a joint and thorough investigation.”

President Barack Obama said that he expected a full accounting of the circumstances surrounding the bombing, and that he would wait for those results before making a judgment. He said the U.S. would continue working with Afghanistan’s government and its overseas partners to promote security in Afghanistan.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon “strongly” condemned the airstrikes in Kunduz and said hospitals and medical personnel are “explicitly protected” under international humanitarian law, his spokesman’s office said in a statement.

School hazing gets stern penalty in military-ruled Thailand

BANGKOK (AP)—At a military facility outside Bangkok, a drill sergeant barks orders at a group of film students learning the hard way that creative license has its limits in Thailand.

“You are here to learn discipline,” the officer shouted. “Do you understand?”

“Yes, sir!” shouted back the group of 53 aspiring artists—boys with shaggy hair, girls with tattoos and yoga pants.

“Discipline means respecting the rules and regulations,” he told them. “If you misbehave, you must be punished.”

In military-ruled Thailand, this is how university hazing is handled. The offense: a video

posted online that showed a half-dozen fully clothed freshman doing an erotic couples dance as upperclassmen cheered. Social media dubbed it a “love-making dance.” The punishment: three days of boot camp for a new type of disciplinary punishment known as “attitude adjustment.”

The military junta that seized power over a year ago pioneered the idea of “attitude adjustment” as a technique to silence critics. The junta summons politicians and others who voice dissent to military bases where they are typically incarcerated several days, interrogated and made to “confess” to their transgressions

and sign a contract to not repeat them—a practice that has been widely criticized by human rights groups.

Now there are signs that the mentality of military rule is being applied to civilian issues—like college discipline.

For the students from the film school of Bangkok’s Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, a three-day boot camp included reprimands, public humiliation and a grueling endurance test.

“We’re not telling our film students don’t make creative films, but in Thailand there are social limits. They need to be creative within the limits,” said Chin Tangtamtana, a lecturer in

cinematography and one of several professors who chaperoned the 3-day session last month that included silent meals and group lodging on a barrack floor lined with mattresses. “We have to reset their clocks. That’s why we’re here, to rewind. We’re saying, ‘Go back. Start over. OK, now be creative.’”

After a 2-hour bus drive northeast of the capital to the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy, a 33-square-kilometer (20-square-mile) facility surrounded by mountains, the students’ cellphones were confiscated to ensure no outside communication and primarily to prevent more videos, Chin said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Typhoon heads for south China; tens of thousands evacuated

BEIJING (AP)—Tens of thousands of people have been evacuated from coastal areas of southern China, with a strong typhoon that was moving toward the mainland on Sunday already bringing powerful winds and heavy rain to the region. Typhoon Mujigae was heading gradually toward the Leizhou Peninsula in Guangdong province, just north of the resort island of Hainan, according to the National Meteorological Center. The center issued a red alert—China’s highest level of weather preparedness—warning that as much as 280 millimeters (11 inches) of rain could fall in some places from Sunday morning to Monday morning.

China orders tighter mail security following mail bombings

BEIJING (AP)—China’s postal service is ordering tighter checks on packages following a series of mail bombings that killed 10 people and injured 51. Mail carriers and overnight delivery services must conduct additional checks for explosives, dangerous chemicals, weapons, gunpowder and poisons, the State Post Bureau said on its

website Saturday. Closer cooperation with police will also be required. The order follows a series of 18 explosions in the southern region of Guangxi on Wednesday and Thursday blamed on a 33-year-old man, Wei Yinyong, who had longstanding disputes with neighbors and companies involved in stone quarrying.

Weather hinders search for missing small Indonesian plane

MAKASSAR, Indonesia (AP)—Rugged terrain and bad weather have hampered the search Saturday for a small passenger plane that went missing with 10 people on board in eastern Indonesia, officials said. The search was halted at dusk and would resume Sunday. The DHC-6 Twin Otter plane lost contact with air traffic controllers 11 minutes after taking off in good weather Friday from Masamba in South Sulawesi province, said Transportation Ministry spokesman Julius Barata. No distress signal was received. The plane, owned by the private Aviastar Mandiri airline, was headed for Makassar, the provincial capital. It was carrying three crew members and seven passengers, including three children, Barata said.

Gunmen kill Japanese man in Bangladesh; IS says responsible

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Japanese officials said Sunday that they were investigating the fatal shooting of a Japanese citizen in Bangladesh as a possible terrorist attack after the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the killing.

Masked assailants riding a motorbike shot and killed Kunio Hoshi in northern Bangladesh on Saturday, police said. He was the second foreigner in a week to be gunned down in the South Asian country.

The Islamic State group issued a statement claiming responsibility for the attack,

according to the SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadi postings online. The report could not be independently confirmed. The extremist group also claimed responsibility for the killing of an Italian aid worker last Monday.

Saturday’s incident took place at Mahiganj village in Rangpur district, said Rezaul Karim, a police official. He said Hoshi had started a grass farm in Rangpur, about 300 kilometers (185 miles) north of Dhaka, Bangladesh’s capital.

Local residents reported that two bike-riding assail-

ants shot three times at Hoshi on Saturday morning, Karim said. Police have detained four people for questioning in the case, he said.

Mohammad Kibria, an assistant sub-inspector of police in Rangpur, said Hoshi was taken to the emergency unit of the state-run hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

“The dead body has been kept in the morgue. It can be clear after further investigation how and why he was killed,” Kibria said.

Japanese officials declined to give Hoshi’s age, but local me-

dia reported that he was 66.

Ayub Ali, a witness, said three men were standing near a road and fired at Hoshi as he passed by on a rickshaw. “They fired at him while he was on the rickshaw and left the scene,” Ali said.

An official from the Japanese foreign ministry’s anti-terrorism department said that in light of the Islamic State group’s claim of responsibility, officials were investigating the incident as a possible terrorist attack. The official spoke on condition of anonymity, citing ministry rules.

World

Russia launches new wave of air raids in Syria

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Russian warplanes have attacked the Islamic State group and other insurgents in central and northern Syria with a wave of new airstrikes, Syrian and Russian military officials said Saturday as an activist group said Russia's air raids have killed 39 civilians over the three past days.

The new airstrikes came as residents of Syria's central regions fear the Russians are paving the way for a ground offensive by the government on several towns in the central province of Hama and the northwestern region of Idlib—where the Syrian army suffered major setbacks over the past months, activists said.

Russian military spokesman Maj.-Gen. Igor Konashenkov said the warplanes flew 20 missions in Syria over the past day, hitting nine IS targets. He said an IS command post and a weapons storage bunker were destroyed in the area of Raqqa, the extremists' de facto capital.

Col.-Gen. Andrei Kartapolov, a top official in the Russian military's general staff, said Russian pilots had flown more than 60



sorties since Sept. 30, targeting IS command posts, ammunition storehouses and weapons-production factories.

"Our intelligence has determined that the militants are leav-

ing the areas they control. Panic and desertion have begun in their ranks," Kartapolov said in a briefing transcript posted on the Defense Ministry's Facebook page. "We will not only continue attacks by our airplanes, but will increase their intensity."

In Damascus, an unnamed Syrian military official was quoted by state TV as saying that the "concentrated and precise"

airstrikes destroyed a command center in the central town of Latamneh in Hama province and targeted positions in the northwestern areas of Jisr al-Shughour and Maaret al-Numan.

Konashenkov said equipment and weapons storage facilities were destroyed in a strike near Jisr al-Shughour and an ammunition depot was destroyed in Maaret al-Numan.

The IS group has no presence in the northwestern province of Idlib, which includes Jisr al-Shughour and Maaret al-Numan.

The Russian airstrikes that began Wednesday have mainly targeted central and northwestern Syria, strategic regions that are the gateway to President Bashar Assad's strongholds in the capital, Damascus, and along the Mediterranean coast.

In this Thursday, Oct. 1, 2015, image taken from video provided by the Syrian activist-based media group Qasioun News, which has been verified and is consistent with other AP reporting, Syrians gather near the rubble of a building, in the aftermath of a Russian airstrike, in Dair al-Asafeer village, rural Damascus, Syria.

Russia says it is targeting the IS group and al-Qaida's Syrian affiliate, but at least some of the strikes appear to have hit Western-backed rebel factions.

Later Saturday the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said warplanes believed to be Russian attacked the central town of Hobeit in Idlib province.

The air raid came as hundreds of people fled their homes in areas near Hobeit fearing a ground offensive by government forces, activists said.

Turkey-based activists Mohammed Kanaan and Ahmad al-Ahmad said the army has informed residents of the nearby village of Kfar Nabboudeh, that agreed to a truce with government forces months ago, that troops want to pass through the village on their way to the rebel-held areas of Hobeit and Khan Sheikhou.

WORLD BRIEFS

Jordanian MP says son joined IS, carried out suicide attack

AMMAN, Jordan (AP)—A Jordanian parliament member says his son carried out a suicide bombing in Iraq just three months after the family failed to prevent him from joining the Islamic State extremist group. Jordan is part of an international military coalition against IS, but the group has some grassroots support in the country. Parliamentarian Mazen Dalaeen told The Associated Press he last saw his 23-year-old son Mohammed in June in Ukraine, where he was studying medicine. Dalaeen says his son left for Iraq via Turkey and Syria the next day, after they argued about IS. He said Saturday he learned of Mohammed's death late last week from IS-linked websites that posted a photo of his son and said he participated in a triple suicide car bomb attack on an Iraqi army post.

Palestinian kills 2 Israelis, wounds toddler in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM (AP)—A Palestinian man fatally stabbed two Israelis as they walked in Jerusalem's Old City and seriously injured a woman and a toddler, before he was shot and killed by an officer on duty, police said Saturday in the latest in a series of Palestinian attacks. Jerusalem police chief Moshe Edri said the Palestinian "stabbed an Israeli

man, his wife and the toddler" multiple times in an alleyway before stabbing another man. Both Israeli men succumbed to their wounds, he said, adding that the mother and the toddler are in serious condition. Israeli media later reported the toddler was lightly injured. Police Spokeswoman Luba Samri said the Palestinian attacker took a gun from one of the wounded men and opened fire at police and tourists.

Guatemala family loses 11 to mudslide, sees dreams end

SANTA CATARINA PINULA, Guatemala (AP)—A wall of mud stopped everyday life mid-text, mid-sentence, mid-dream for the family of Manuel Sandoval and Maritza Aquino. A normal Thursday night, daughter-in-law Tanya Garcia had made her regular evening call to her mother. She worried about her blood pressure. Granddaughter Melany Sandoval was texting a friend in another state in Guatemala, and suddenly the conversation stopped. In all, seven family members are now dead and four still missing from the canyon home that Sandoval built 16 years ago, and where he, wife Maritza, three sons and their families lived. They are among 69 dead and possibly hundreds more buried late Thursday when a rain-soaked hillside collapsed in the outskirts of Guatemala City.

Bahamas search finds life ring but no other sign of US ship

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)—An intensive search by U.S. Coast Guard and Navy aircraft has turned up a life ring but no other sign of a cargo ship with 33 people on board that lost power and communications off the southeastern Bahamas during Hurricane Joaquin.

The search covered a large expanse of the Atlantic Ocean near Crooked Island for the El Faro, which was taking on water as it was battered by massive waves at the height of the hurricane. The search was halted at nightfall and was expected to resume Sunday.

Authorities don't know yet what happened to the ship or

whether the discovery of the life ring means that the crew were forced to abandon the ship, said Chief Petty Officer Ryan Doss, a Coast Guard spokesman in Miami.

"There are plenty of instances where things get torn off a ship in heavy winds," Doss said. "It even happens to Coast Guard cutters."

The life ring was spotted 120 miles (193 kilometers) northeast of Crooked Island, about 70 miles (113 kilometers) from the last known position of the El Faro before authorities lost contact with it on Thursday as Joaquin raged through that section of the Bahamas as a powerful

Category 4 hurricane.

TOTE Maritime Puerto Rico, the operator of the ship, said in a statement that it told family members of the crew, who gathered at a union hall in Jacksonville, Florida, that they should not be discouraged by the discovery of the life ring and that it will help the Coast Guard with the search.

"While this reflects that the ship was caught in rough seas and extreme weather, it is in no way indicative of the ship's fate," the company said. "Small items such as life rings and life jackets are lost at sea frequently, particularly in rough weather."

The El Faro was heading to

San Juan, Puerto Rico from Jacksonville, Florida when it ran into trouble. It was being battered by winds of more than 130 mph and waves of up to 30 feet (9 meters). The crew reported it had taken on water and was listing 15 degrees but said it was "manageable," according to the company. That was the last it was heard from.

The El Faro departed Sept. 29, when Joaquin was still a tropical storm, with 28 crew members from the United States and five from Poland. The company described them as experienced and "more than equipped to handle situations such as changing weather."

Vatican fires gay priest on eve of synod

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The Vatican on Saturday fired a monsignor who came out as gay on the eve of a big meeting of the world's bishops to discuss church outreach to gays, divorcees and more traditional Catholic families.

The Vatican took action after Krzysztof Charamsa, a mid-level official in its doctrine office, came out in newspaper interviews in Italy and Poland saying he was happy and proud to be a gay priest, and that he was in love with a man whom he identified as his boyfriend.

"The decision to make such a pointed statement on the eve of the opening of the synod appears very serious and irresponsible, since it aims to subject the synod assembly to undue media pressure," the Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said in a statement. As a result, Charamsa could no longer work at the Vatican or its pontifical universities, he said. Despite his dismissal, Charamsa remains a priest, although Lombardi hinted that his superiors could take further action.

Charamsa, 43, initially

planned a press conference in front of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith's office, but moved it to central Rome after the Vatican action. He was joined by his companion, identified only as Eduard.

Charamsa told reporters that the timing of his disclosure was not related to the bishops meeting on the family, but said he hoped it might add "a Christian voice" to the synod that is expected to address how the Church can better minister to the homosexual faithful.

"I came out. This is a very personal, difficult and tough decision in the Catholic church's homophobic world," Charamsa said, and asked people to bear this in mind.

He said he has written a book in Italian and Polish to "lay bare" his experience "in front of all those who want to confront me."

Charamsa told the Polish daily Gazeta Wyborcza that he was motivated to make his sexual orientation public by hate mail that he received after publicly criticizing a right-wing Polish priest who is strongly anti-gay in the Catholic weekly Tygodnik Powszechny.

Health & Fitness

Low-nicotine cigarettes cut use, dependence, study finds

MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

A new study might help the push for regulations to limit nicotine in cigarettes. Smokers who switched to special low-nicotine ones wound up smoking less and were more likely to try to quit, researchers found.

The study only lasted six weeks, and researchers call the evidence preliminary. But they say it's the first large study to show that slashing nicotine, perhaps below an addiction threshold, is safe and leads to less smoking.

The Food and Drug Administration was given the power in 2009 to mandate lower nicotine levels if it would help public health, but has not yet done so.

"This, I think, provides support" for lowering nicotine, said one study leader, Dr. Neal Benowitz of the University of California, San Francisco.

"What our study shows is that it's feasible," and that people won't smoke more regular cigarettes to compensate, he said.

Results are in the New England Journal of Medicine. The FDA and the National Institute on Drug Abuse paid for the study. Two study leaders have advised companies that make smoking cessation aids, and two testified in tobacco lawsuits.

Smoking is a leading cause of heart disease and cancer. Tar and other substances inhaled through smoking make cigarettes deadly,



AP
This Thursday, Sept. 17, 2015 file photo shows an ashtray with cigarette butts outside the Oklahoma County Courthouse in Oklahoma City.

but the nicotine in tobacco is what makes them addictive.

Some earlier work suggests they might not be if nicotine was limited to roughly 0.7 milligrams per gram of tobacco. Most cigarettes contain around 15.8 milligrams per gram of tobacco. There are no low-nicotine cigarettes on the market; the government made special ones with several lower nicotine levels to test.

"We wanted to see how much

lower it would need to be to see that effect," where dependence did not happen or was diminished, said another study leader, Dr. Eric Donny, a University of Pittsburgh psychologist.

For the study, about 800 people who smoked five or more cigarettes a day and had no interest in quitting were assigned to smoke either their usual brand or an experimental type with nicotine ranging from a low of 0.4 milligram to 15.8 milligrams, the

level in most cigarettes.

The cigarettes were provided for free, and no one except people assigned to keep smoking their regular brand knew how much nicotine any of their smokes contained.

Smokers had to report daily

how much they smoked and to make 10 office visits, some of which included tests to measure nicotine exposure and dependence. They were paid \$20 an hour or so for the visits and extra for completing tests and daily calls, up to \$835 in all.

The low-nicotine users were a little more likely to smoke some regular cigarettes in addition to the ones provided in the study, yet the overall number of cigarettes and nicotine levels were lower in those groups. During the last week of the study, those given cigarettes with low amounts of nicotine—2.4, 1.3 or 0.4 milligrams per gram of tobacco—were averaging 15 or 16 smokes a day. That compares to 21 or 22 cigarettes for those given the 15.8-milligram cigarettes or their usual brand.

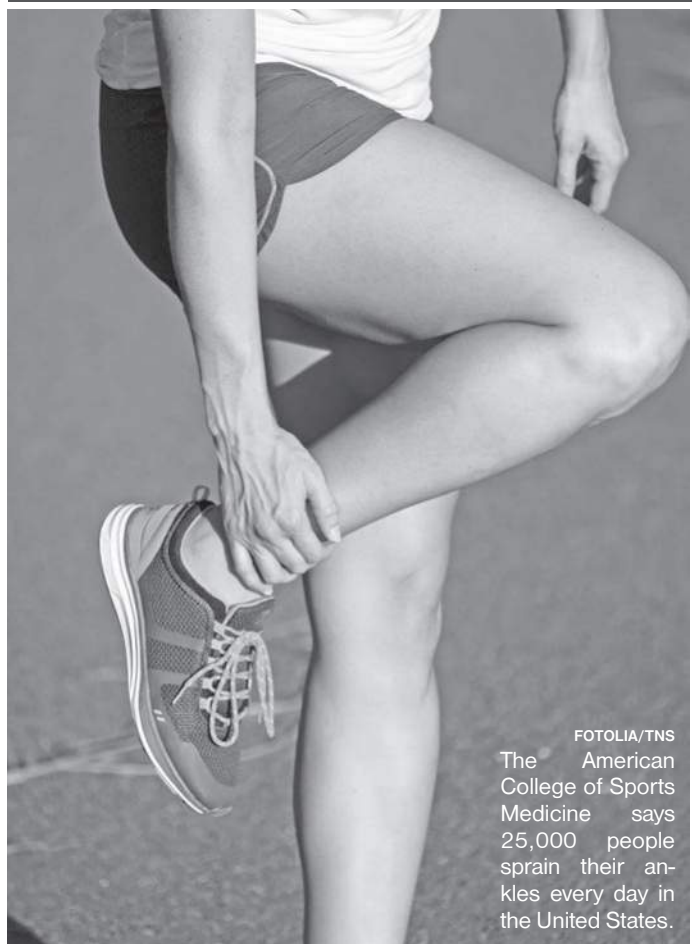
One low-nicotine level—5.2 milligrams—did not cause any change in number of cigarettes smoked from smokers' usual brand.

All low-nicotine cigarette users reported fewer symptoms of nicotine dependence on various standardized tests.

The study was not intended or designed to get smokers to quit. But twice as many in the low-nicotine group than those smoking standard-strength cigarettes—35 percent versus 17 percent—said they had tried in the month after the study ended.

A longer study is under way to see whether a gradual or abrupt shift to low-nicotine cigarettes is best.

Ankle sprains: Pain free does not mean normal



FOTOLIA/TNS
The American College of Sports Medicine says 25,000 people sprain their ankles every day in the United States.

the joint after a sprain, ankles can easily be re-injured.

Mayo Clinic researchers did two studies related to this idea. Mayo Clinic Sports Medicine specialist Dr. Edward Laskowski says one study finds that after an ankle sprain, muscles don't contract normally, leading to instability. The other study shows that people who participated in a training program after ankle sprain had improved stability. He says, "Pain free does not mean normal. Without training after an ankle sprain, you might not get the protection from future injury."

If you sprain your ankle, Dr. Laskowski recommends a consultation with a Sports Medicine professional or physical therapist who can suggest exercises to strengthen the muscles around the joint.

Dr. Laskowski says exercise the following types of exercises are key to recovery and prevention.

■ Stand on the floor and balance on one leg

■ As balance improves, stand on one leg while doing a task such as reading or bouncing a ball

■ Stand on one leg on a foam pillow (*Mayo Clinic News Network*)

The American College of Sports Medicine says 25,000 people sprain their ankles every day in the United States. Some of those injuries recover over time on their own—or do they? A recent

New York Times article sites studies that confirm what Mayo Clinic experts have known for a while. Ankle sprains are not simple injuries. Without proper training of muscles to support

Personal Trainer Repairing your desk-job posture

These exercises counteract changes in your posture and muscle tone that sitting at a computer or other sedentary work causes.

"Waxing"

Sit straight, press elbows against sides, turn hands outward with palms facing down; push shoulders together and make a waxing motion in the air for 20 seconds; repeat four times



Wall angels

Press lower back, elbows, forearms and wrists against wall; lift and lower arms slowly in a small arc; keep elbows touching wall; repeat 10 times



Abdomen isometrics

Breathe normally; sit with back supported; tighten stomach as strongly as possible; push with fingers and tighten abdominal muscles to resist them; hold 15 seconds; repeat five times



Standing up from sit

Sit forward in chair with knees a little ahead of feet; stand up slowly keeping neck and back erect; don't bend forward; sit down immediately, but don't put full weight on chair; do three sets of 10 repetitions each

Source: University of California-Los Angeles
Office of Environment, Health and Safety
Graphic: Paul Trap, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Attorneys: Robin Williams' widow, kids settle estate fight



In this April 28, 2012, file photo Robin Williams, right, and his wife, Susan Schneider arrive to the 2012 Comedy Awards in New York. AP

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Robin Williams' widow and his three children from previous marriages reached a settlement in their legal fight over the late actor's estate, ending a public dispute following the beloved comedian's suicide last year.

Terms of the out-of-court settlement were not disclosed. But James Wagstaffe, who is representing Susan Williams, said his client will remain in the San Francisco Bay Area home she shared with Williams and receive living expenses to maintain the home for the rest of her life.

Wagstaffe said she also will receive a watch Robin Williams often wore, a bike bought on their honeymoon, and their wedding gifts.

Both sides expressed satisfaction over the settlement, which remains subject to court approval. Wagstaffe and Meredith Bushnell, who represents three adult children from previous marriages—Zachary, Zelda and Cody—said they expect the judge's approval.

"Susan gets to enforce Robin's wishes. She gets to stay in the house as Robin wanted, with the trust being created to pay the expenses," Wagstaffe said.

Meredith Bushnell, who represents the three children said, "I think they're just very happy to have this behind them."

Susan Williams filed a court petition in December, saying the contents of the Tiburon, California, home she shared with Robin Williams should be excluded from the items the actor left to his children.

She also claimed some of her husband's personal items were taken without her permission.

Williams' three children

countered that Susan Williams was "adding insult to a terrible injury" by trying to change the trust agreement and deprive them of items that their father clearly intended to leave to them.

Among the items in dispute were watches, memorabilia, the tuxedo he was married in and photographs taken on his 60th birthday, according to court documents and previous statements by attorney Wagstaffe.

The dispute resulted in several court appearances before a San Francisco judge and mediation.

Trustees for Williams' estate filed a petition Friday with San Francisco County Superior Court stating the parties had reached a settlement on Sept. 25 and asking to dismiss Susan Williams' petition to have the court provide guidance in the dispute. The judge had encouraged both sides to settle out of court.

Cindy Crawford talks selfies, models today and daughter Kaia

NEW YORK (AP)—Score one for the selfie stick: Cindy Crawford believes those photos of you by you can help boost self-image.

"It's empowering for kids to take their own image in their own hands in a way," she said in a recent interview. "It's a form of self-expression."

But she cautions that they can be both good and bad.

"I certainly think a little guidance is good because when we're young we kind of forget that things might come back to haunt us, she said. "I tell my kids, 'If you have any doubts at all just check with me first.'"

Crawford credits selfies with teaching the masses the secrets to looking good in photographs.

"Every 14-year-old girl these days is a model in their own life because so much of their social media and just their interaction are through selfies. Kids are so much more sophisticated of like their angle and how they want to portray themselves than I ever was."

Crawford's latest endeavor is "Becoming by Cindy Crawford," it's a coffee table book with 150 photographs and anecdotes from her career as she prepares to turn 50 next year.

In a recent interview, Crawford talked about models today and her lookalike daughter Kaia.

Associated Press: You came up in an era where we called models by their first name and called them supermodels. Then there weren't as many. What do you think of models today?

Crawford: I was really lucky to be in fashion at the time that I was and it was like such a mo-



Model and author Cindy Crawford participates in AOL's BUILD Speaker Series to discuss her new book, "Becoming", at AOL Studios on Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2015, in New York. AP

'Lust, Caution' star Tang looks for chemistry on the set

BUSAN, South Korea (AP)—Chinese actress Tang Wei is not obsessed about finding the right role for her future film project.

For the "Lust, Caution" star, it is the people she works with on a film set and the chemistry with them that counts.

Tang shot to international fame with her role in Ang Lee's 2007 spy thriller set in the World War II era, which won the Venice Film Festival's best film award. She played a Chinese student recruited to seduce a Japanese-allied Chinese official as part of an assassination plot. The film is still Tang's best known work outside Asia.

Asked about the roles she would like to play in the future, Tang said Saturday that her job is not about the role, but about the people and the conversations with them.

"For me in this job, in this work, it's more about who you are working with. It's nothing about what you're working on," she said. "It's the people, and the conversations, and also the chemistry that's more important for me."

It should be no surprise that those conversations and the

chemistry on a film set helped her find her love. Tang met her husband, South Korean director Kim Tae-yong, on the set of Kim's romance drama "Late Autumn" in 2010. Last year, they wed in a small ceremony at the late legendary director Ingmar Bergman's island home in Sweden.

This year's Busan International Film Festival is screening three movies featuring Tang, including Johnnie To's musical "Office," where she plays a bespectacled, hard-working office lady.

She also played a female lead in "A Tale of Three Cities" directed by Mabel Cheung and appears in epic fantasy movie "Monster Hunt," which has been setting box office records in China since hitting theaters in July.

Tang had a three-year hiatus after filming "Lust, Caution," attributed to the political sensitivity of the traitor role she played in the movie, reportedly landing her on Chinese film officials' blacklist for

three years. But in the past five years, she has been frequently spotted on screens in Asia from theaters to TV ads.

Her latest movie, "Office," is the first musical by the Hong Kong action master To about love and conspiracies at a Hong Kong company set against the backdrop of the

2008 financial crisis. Tang said it was the right direction for her, with great chemistry.

"This is the dream crew for me. The whole crew, everybody is a master," she said.

Filming with veteran Asian screen stars Sylvia Chang and Chow Yun-fat made her feel like "a little vegetable bird," Tang said with giggles, a literal translation for a Chinese word meaning rookie.

One thing she misses from the set is the smell of cigars, she said, bursting out laughing. To is a habitual cigar smoker.

"When you smell, oh cigar smell is coming," she said, "oh then (you know) the director is coming."



Tang

Train hero avoided Oregon rampage due to TV show rehearsal

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Alek Skarlatos, one of three Americans hailed as heroes for stopping a terrorist attack on a Paris-bound train in August, would have been at the Oregon college where a gunman killed nine people if Skarlatos hadn't been in Los Angeles to rehearse for ABC's "Dancing With the Stars."

Skarlatos put off enrolling this semester at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon, to compete in the show, a spokeswoman said Friday.

In an interview with ABC News, Skarlatos was asked if he would have taken down the shooter Thursday.

"I would have tried any-

ways," he said.

Skarlatos said he was with "Dancing" partner Lindsay Arnold when he received a text from a friend about the shooting. He said he then looked up the news on the Internet to confirm it.

"I just sat down for a second and then hid in the bathroom so the cameras couldn't see me," he said.

Skarlatos said he decided quickly to return to Roseburg to be with the community.

As far as he knows, none of his friends were among the victims.

"My heart really goes out to the people who can't say the same," he said.

Skarlatos and two friends, U.S. Air Force Airman Spencer Stone, 23, and Anthony Sadler, 23, received worldwide acclaim when they tackled the gunman aboard a train while vacationing in Europe. The heroics earned Skarlatos his stint on "Dancing With the Stars."

The next installment of the competition airs on Monday. If he misses that show he would be eliminated under the rules.

AP
Alek Skarlatos, one of the three Americans who stopped a terrorist attack aboard a Paris-bound train in August, talks to reporters about the shooting at Umpqua Community College, Friday, Oct. 2, 2015, in Roseburg, Ore.



Sam Smith's 007 theme is first Bond song to top UK charts

LONDON (AP)—Sam Smith's 007 theme has gone straight to No. 1—the first James Bond song to top the U.K. singles chart.

"Writing's On the Wall" features in spy thriller "SPECTRE," released later this month.

The Official Charts Com-

pany, which compiles the best-seller list, said Friday that the song moved 70,000 copies in sales and streaming in its first week, beating Justin Bieber's "What Do You Mean" to the top spot.

It is Smith's fifth No. 1 single in Britain.

Previous Bond films have featured songs by Adele, Paul McCartney, Madonna, Shirley Bassey and others. None has been a British chart-topper, although Duran Duran's "A View to a Kill" and McCartney's "Live and Let Die" were top 10 hits.

David Cassidy charged with leaving scene of crash

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—Former teen idol David Cassidy has been charged with leaving the scene of an accident and driving with an expired tag after a crash in Florida last month.

The Sun Sentinel quotes police as saying that the 65-year-old Cassidy sideswiped a truck

and then tried to cover his license plate before driving away with a flat tire. The charges were filed Wednesday. Authorities said witnesses identified Cassidy as the driver in a photo lineup.

Cassidy's lawyer, Jason Forman, says the police report is riddled with inconsistencies.

He says Cassidy gave police his driver's license and registration before leaving the scene. A hearing has been scheduled for Oct. 27.

Cassidy, who starred in "The Partridge Family" television show, lives in Fort Lauderdale. He filed for bankruptcy earlier this year.

Rapper Pitbull lends celebrity to charter school near Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Rapper Pitbull is lending his celebrity image opening a second SLAM! charter school, this time near Las Vegas.

Armando Christian Perez who goes by the stage name Pitbull attended a groundbreaking ceremony Friday morning in Henderson, Nevada, for the Sports Leader-

ship and Management Academy.

The school for students seeking careers in sports medicine, marketing, business and management is expected to open in time for the 2016 school year. Only students in grades six through nine will be eligible initially before the school expects

to grow to an enrollment of 1,650 students in grades six through 12.

Pitbull was also involved when the first SLAM! school opened in Miami in 2013.

The rapper is a celebrity ambassador for the schools overseen by the SLAM Foundation. He is not a financial donor.

Meet Val the bartender: Hillary Clinton does an 'SNL' skit

WASHINGTON (AP)—Set 'em up, Hillary Rodham Clinton, and lend an ear to the troubles of a presidential candidate.

The front-runner for the Democratic nomination appeared on the season opener of "Saturday Night Live" as a wise bartender named Val who pours a drink or two for, ahem, Hillary Clinton (played by "SNL" regular Kate McKinnon).

Most political candidates play themselves on "SNL," often for just a cameo in a sketch or to declare the show's famous tag line, "Live from New York—it's Saturday night!" Seldom do they go all-out thespian and play a character in a sketch.

"So, Hillary," Clinton asks McKinnon, "what brings you here tonight?"

"Well, I needed to blow off some steam," McKinnon says. "I've had a hard couple of 22 years."

Asked what she does for a living, McKinnon says in imitation of Clinton's earnest monotone: "First, I am a grandmother. Sec-

ond, I am a human, entrusted with this one green Earth."

"Oh," Clinton says, "you're a politician."

And just who is Val? Clinton deadpans, "I'm just an ordinary citizen who believes the Keystone pipeline will destroy our environment."

From there the skit poked gentle fun at Clinton's slow opposition to the pipeline, her late-arriving support of gay marriage, and her inability to take a vacation. Notably absent was a crack about her private email server, the source of months of criticism from Republican lawmakers and candidates.

Speaking of Republican candidates, at one point Clinton—the real one—mimicked Donald Trump with a hoarse, throaty rendition of his dismissive statement, "Uh, you're all losers."

In a nod to the past, former cast member Darrell Hammond showed up on a barstool as Bill Clinton, who takes a look at Clinton and McKinnon and says, "My god, they're multi-

plying!"

Overall, the skit was friendly toward Clinton and closed with the former first lady joining McKinnon in singing "Lean on Me." Clinton had another role in the show—introducing the first musical number by host Miley Cyrus.

Republicans didn't fare nearly as well as "SNL" began its 41st season. The opening sketch made fun of Trump and his wife, Melania, and a faux commercial pitched a pill that cures people of thinking they can be president—specifically low-polling GOP candidates Rick Santorum, Mike Huckabee and Jim Gilmore.

Clinton has struggled at times to show herself as warm and personable with a sense of humor, qualities that have been valued in modern campaigns driven by broadcast media and now social media. The former secretary of state has already appeared this year on talk shows hosted by Jimmy Fallon and Ellen DeGeneres.

Wife's online snooping reveals her lack of trust

DEAR ABBY: My wife used the search feature for the Ashley Madison emails and discovered an old account I had signed up for late one night, before we were together. I had forgotten all about it. When she brought it up, I panicked and lied because I was embarrassed, but immediately told her what it was. She was upset, but I explained the situation and that I hadn't even thought about it since we have been together.

Now I feel hurt that she didn't trust me and felt the need to check, using the guise that "some emails were hacked." But she didn't check hers, just mine. I am upset that she checked, as I have never done anything to deserve this. How do I get over it without starting a huge fight? I am now more irritable and closed off, and this is hurting our marriage.

HURT IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR HURT: Rather than avoid a fight, tell your wife how hurt you are that she felt she needed to check up on you, and insist this be discussed with the help of a licensed marriage counselor so you can both lay your cards on the table. You need to understand why your first instinct was to lie to her, and she needs to level with you about why she felt compelled to see if you were in that database. There are times when a confrontation can be healthy, and this may be one of them.

DEAR ABBY: Our beautiful, talented teen daughter started cutting several years ago. She is getting help for her depression and the bullying that contributed to it, but she no sooner lets one set of cuts heal than she makes more. Sometimes I think she does it to try to limit people's expectations of her.

Abby, we talked to her about drugs, sex, distracted driving, all the things we thought were important, but cutting wasn't even on our radar! We have now learned cutting involves more than 14 percent of young girls, and to some degree is a social issue, in that they learn about cutting as a coping mechanism from each other. At a young age it can seem exciting, edgy and rebellious—even a way to "fit in" with a group.

Please advise other parents to talk to their children about this and, please, ask for feedback from people who are former cutters. She may listen to what they have to say, as opposed to her dumb old parents.

HEARTBROKEN MOM FROM ANYWHERE

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: If your daughter is under a doctor's care and continuing to harm herself, it's time to consult another one because this one hasn't addressed the root of her problem. If readers who have conquered a cutting addiction would like to chime in on this, I will either print their comments or forward them to you.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY: A few days before my boss's wife gave birth, her father was tragically killed in an airplane accident. I want to congratulate my boss and his wife on the birth of their daughter, but I also want to pay respects to her father's passing. What is the etiquette in this case?

HAPPY AND SAD IN ITALY

DEAR HAPPY AND SAD: The most diplomatic approach would be to send your congratulations and your condolences separately rather than try to combine them.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

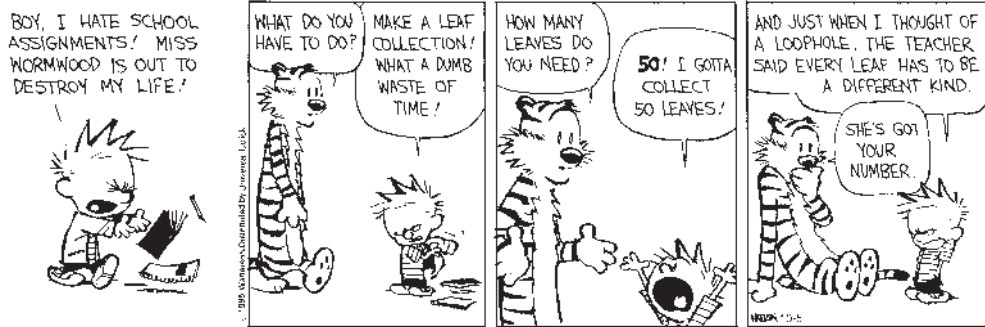
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

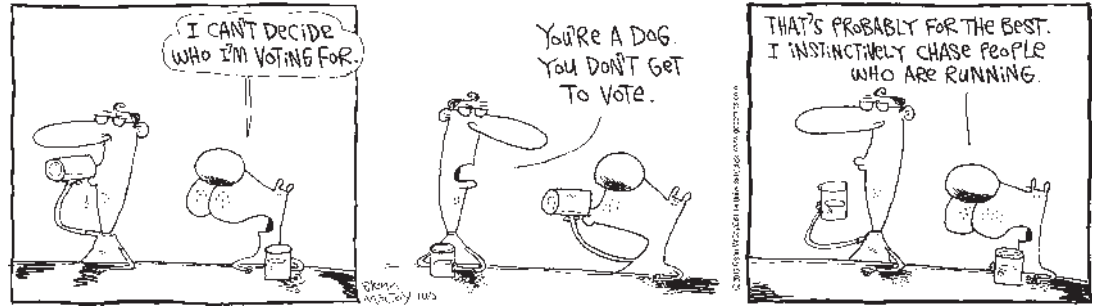


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Arbiter
4 Suitable
7 "I Re-member"
11 Acknowledg-
13 Hawaiian neck-piece
14 Raw minerals
15 Pleasant
16 Felon's flight
17 Ap-proaching
18 Slight light
20 Rickey flavor
22 Pitch
24 Wood decay caused by fungus
28 California observatory
32 Range
33 PC picture
34 Mesh
36 Admitting customers
37 Obliterate
39 Variance of opinion

DOWN

41 Tooth-related
43 Siesta
44 Destruction
46 Cart
50 Sandwich shop
53 Unruly bunch
55 Portrayal
56 Uncontrollable
57 Purchase
58 A Great Lake
59 Put one over on
60 Indivisible
61 Conclusion
1 Phoned
2 Satan's field
3 Conver-gence points
4 Every iota
5 Thunder sound
6 Shy
7 Bill payer's dream
8 "Entou-rage" character
9 "Family Guy"
10 Blond shade
12 Protested at work, maybe
19 Highland-er's hat
21 "Miniver"
23 Scooted
25 Cow catcher
26 Part of 32-Across
27 Bivouac shelter
28 Multi-colored
29 Farm fraction
30 Bank trans-action
31 Roulette bet
35 Can material
38 — de cologne
40 Wit-nessed
42 Un-certain state
45 Part of speech
47 Clinton's veep
48 Actress Lena
49 Require
50 Pop
51 Ostrich's cousin
52 Prune
54 "See ya"

Solution time: 27 mins.

Friday's answer 10-5

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jesse Eisenberg, 32; Kate Winslet, 40; Guy Pearce, 48; Mario Lemieux, 50.

Happy Birthday: Change is good, but be prepared for a series of unexpected developments. Don't let these obstacles stop you from going about getting what you want. Procrastination, expecting others to do things for you, or just being lazy will only lead to dissatisfaction and postponed plans. Don't sit back when your future depends on what you do to reach your goals. Your numbers are 6, 11, 23, 27, 32, 38, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't get down when you should get moving. Emotions will surface if someone makes a last-minute change or springs something unexpected on you. Stay calm and focus on what matters the most to you. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Plan to do unique and interesting things that will make you stand out or impress your peers. Concentrate on getting things done, not on wasting time arguing with someone who is difficult to get along with. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Think before you make a move. You are likely to overdo it if you aren't careful. Do your research and don't let anyone push you in a direction that doesn't fit your budget, style or future plans. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Try not to let what others do or say bother you. Your emotions will be difficult to control due to the changes others make. Spend time doing something that you enjoy or that

will improve your skills and knowledge. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Financial and legal matters can be dealt with if you approach matters with an open mind. The changes you bring about now will help you get ahead professionally. Gather as much knowledge as possible and update your resume. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Favors will be granted if you present what you are working on and collaborate with people who share your interests and concerns. An opportunity will arise if you network or expand your interests to include out-of-the-ordinary events or activities. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Expect to face opposition. Stay calm and don't let your emotions cost you. Do whatever it takes to secure your position. Pick up information, skills or support from others to ensure you do not fall short of your expectations. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Publishing deals, writing, interacting with peers and expanding your business interests will bring about a multitude of opportunities. A business trip will encourage more commerce and the chance to present what you have to offer firsthand. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be extremely careful when it comes to business, contracts, settlements or any money matters. You will not be given the information you require to make a good decision. Someone will mislead you in order to take advantage of your generosity. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will accomplish more if you get down to business and physically work toward completing what you start. Too much talk will lead to uncertainty and changes that will be costly emotionally and financially. Do your best to avoid interference. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your imagination will help you stand out and grab the interest of someone who can help you get ahead. Don't let what others do lead you astray or cause emotional mayhem. Follow the direction that makes the most sense. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't be shy—share your thoughts and plans for the future. The way you deliver your ideas will encourage others to not only support what you are trying to accomplish, but to physically help you reach your goal. *****

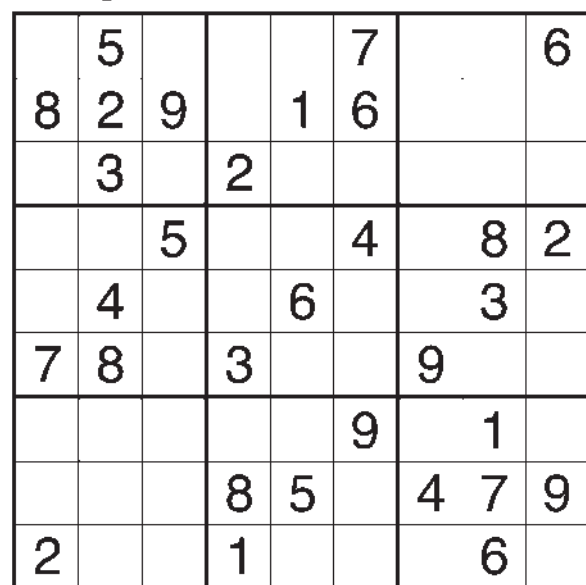
Birthday Baby: You are insightful, hardworking and loyal. You are disciplined and helpful.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

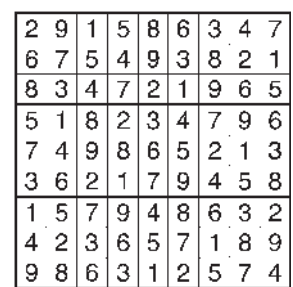
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★ 10/05
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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SIR CHRISTOPHER LEE (1922-2015)

Solution: 10 letters



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Birgit, Bond, Carandini, Charity, Christina, Coat of Arms, Corpse Bride, Count Dracula, Countess, Double Vision, Drama, Erika, Estelle, Film, Frank, Geoffrey, Hamlet, Harriet, Hobbit, Hugo, James, Lord, Man, Marie, Moses, Mummy, Part, Rhapsody of Fire, Rings, Roles, Royal Air Force, Soul, Star Wars, Suit, Tall, Trollope, Walter, Wicker
Last Friday's Answer: Tortellini
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Scherzer throws his 2nd no-hitter this year, Nats sweep Mets



NEW YORK
(A P) — Max

Scherzer pitched his second no-hitter this season for Washington, striking out a team-record 17 and leading the Nationals over the NL East champion New York Mets 2-0 on Saturday night for a double-header sweep.

Only one batter reached base against Scherzer, and that came when third baseman Yunel Escobar bounced a throw for an error on Kevin Plawecki's leadoff grounder in the sixth inning.

He became the sixth pitcher to throw two no-hitters in a year, and the first since Roy Halladay in 2010—the former Phillies ace had one in the regular season and another in the playoffs.

Scherzer struck out nine straight batters before Curtis Granderson hit an easy popup to Escobar to end it on his 109th pitch.

Scherzer (14-12) added to the no-hitter he threw against Pittsburgh on June 20, when he came within one strike of a perfect game.

The Mets lost their fifth straight, having dropped the opener 3-1. They will have to play their postseason series at the Los Angeles Dodgers for Games 1 and 2 and 5, if necessary.

Matt Harvey (13-8) lost allowing one unearned run and four hits in six innings with 11 strikeouts.

The teams combined for 35 strikeouts, a big league record for a nine-inning game. The previous mark was 31 set by Texas and Seattle in 1997, STATS said.

The Nationals won the opener when Bryce Harper hit a tie-breaking, two-run homer in the eighth off Addison Reed (3-3). It was Harper's 42nd homer. Rafael Martin (2-0) got one out as the Nationals ended a six-game skid against the Mets. Felipe Rivero worked the ninth for his second save.

Angels 11, Rangers 10

In Arlington, Texas, the Los Angeles Angels rallied for five runs in the ninth inning, taking their playoff hopes into the final day of the regular season with an 11-10 win over Texas on Saturday that again kept the Rangers from clinching the AL West title.

Rangers closer Shawn Tolleson, pitching for the fifth straight day, entered with a 10-6 lead and allowed consecutive homers to Erick Aybar and Kole Calhoun.

Ross Ohlendorf (3-1) relieved and retired Mike Trout on a grounder, then gave up Albert Pujols' double on a difficult popup to short right that ricocheted off first baseman Mike Napoli's glove, whose back was to the plate.

Dodgers 2, Padres 1

In Los Angeles, Zack Greinke earned the NL ERA title and the Dodgers clinched home-field advantage in their upcoming playoff series with the New



York Mets.

The Dodgers' win combined with Washington's doubleheader sweep of the Mets (89-72) ensured Los Angeles (91-70) will open the Division Series at home Friday.

Greinke (19-3) allowed one run and four hits in eight innings to conclude the regular season with a 1.66 ERA, beating out Cubs ace Jake Arrieta, who finished at 1.77. Arrieta tossed a no-hitter against the Dodgers in August.

Greinke had the lowest ERA by a qualifying pitcher since Greg Maddux's mark of 1.63 for Atlanta in 1995. It is the lowest for a Dodgers pitcher since Rube Marquard's 1.58 in 1916.

Astros 6, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Collin McHugh earned his 19th victory, Colby Rasmus homered twice and Houston clinched at least a tie for the American League's second wild card.

The Astros remained in contention for the AL West title as well as the league's first wild card.

McHugh (19-7) allowed a run and six hits in seven innings to improve to 6-0 in his last seven starts. Jose Altuve homered and doubled for Houston.

Paul Goldschmidt hit his 32nd home run for the Diamondbacks.

The Astros have won six of seven to help scramble the AL playoff picture.

Rays 4, Blue Jays 3

In St. Petersburg Florida, Tim Beckham had a two-run single with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning for Tampa Bay.

Grady Sizemore had a leadoff double off Roberto Osuna (1-6), who later loaded the bases with two outs with two walks. Beckham won it with his liner to left.

Edwin Encarnacion homered for the fourth consecutive game

for the Blue Jays, who fell one game behind Kansas City for the AL's best record and home-field advantage throughout the playoffs heading into Sunday's end of the regular season. Toronto holds the tiebreaker.

Royals 5, Twins 1

In Minneapolis, The Minnesota Twins were eliminated from the AL playoff race when they were stifled by Yordano Ventura for seven innings in a loss to Kansas City.

Ventura (13-8) carried a no-hitter into the fifth and struck out 11 to win his third straight decision for Kansas City, which took a one-game lead over Toronto, which lost to Tampa Bay, for home-field advantage throughout the postseason.

Orioles 4, Yankees 3, 2nd game Orioles 9, Yankees 2, 1st game

In Baltimore, The New York Yankees failed to clinch home field in the AL wild-card game, getting swept by Baltimore in a day-night doubleheader.

Only needing one win to host Tuesday's one-game playoff, reliever Dellin Betances allowed the go-ahead run in the second game to score on a wild pitch in the eighth inning. The Orioles roughed up Ivan Nova in the opener.

New York (87-74) has lost five of six. Should the Yankees and the Astros end up tied, Houston holds the tiebreaker and the game would be played at Minute Maid Park.

In the night game, Paul Janish led off the eighth with a single, reached second on a wild pitch by Betances (6-4), and got to third on Gerardo Parra's bunt single before scoring on a second wild pitch with one out.

T.J. McFarland (2-2) pitched two scoreless innings for Baltimore and Zach Britton got his 36th save in a ninth inning in

which pinch-runner Rico Noel was picked off first.

Manny Machado hit his 35th home run, connecting for a fourth consecutive game, and Nolan Reimold hit the first lead-off homer of his career.

New York was 3 for 19 with runners in scoring position in the doubleheader.

Reds 3, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, A.J. Burnett was outpitched by a rookie in the final regular-season start of his career, and Cincinnati prevented Pittsburgh from clinching home-field advantage in the NL wild-card game by snapping a 13-game skid.

Pittsburgh still needs a win Sunday or a loss by the Chicago Cubs to host the one-game playoff Wednesday night. If the Cubs beat Milwaukee — and the Pirates lose to Cincinnati again — the wild-card showdown would be played at Wrigley Field.

Brandon Finnegan (5-2) limited the Pirates to one run in six innings. Adam Duvall hit his fifth homer and Aroldis Chapman got four outs for his 33rd save, ending Cincinnati's longest losing streak in 70 years.

Cubs 1, Brewers 0

In Milwaukee, Kyle Hendricks allowed one hit and struck out eight in six innings, and Chicago kept alive its hopes to host to the NL wild card game.

Chicago won its seventh straight game behind a stellar effort from Hendricks (8-7). He held Milwaukee without a baserunner until Martin Maldonado singled with one out in the sixth.

Indians 2, Red Sox 0

In Cleveland, Corey Kluber pitched eight innings while Carlos Santana and Ryan Raburn homered for Cleveland.

Kluber (9-16) ended his rocky season with a strong

performance, allowing three hits and striking out nine. The right-hander, who won the AL Cy Young Award last season, recorded his first victory since Aug. 14.

Santana led off the second with a home run while Raburn's homer started the fourth. Both landed several rows deep in the bleachers in left field.

White Sox 4, Tigers 3

In Chicago, Leury Garcia singled home the winning run in the ninth as the White Sox avoided finishing last in the AL Central.

Pinch-hitter J.B. Shuck doubled to tie the game in the bottom of the ninth. After Jose Abreu was intentionally walked, Garcia singled.

Miguel Cabrera hit a two-run home run for the Tigers and virtually locked up the AL batting title. He had three hits to raise his AL-best average to .338 while Boston's Xander Bogaerts was hitless in four at-bats to drop to .320.

Giants 3, Rockies 2

In San Francisco, Jake Peavy pitched five innings for his fifth consecutive win, and rookie Kelsey Tomlinson hit an inside-the-park home run during San Francisco's victory over Colorado.

Brandon Crawford and Marlon Byrd also homered off Chris Rusin (6-10) for the Giants, who beat the Rockies for the eighth time in 18 meetings this year.

Peavy (8-6) allowed one run and four hits to improve to 5-0 over his last eight starts.

Ben Paulsen homered for the Rockies, who have lost four of five.

Marlins 5, Phillies 2, 2nd game Marlins 7, Phillies 6, 1st game

In Philadelphia, Dee Gordon got his 200th hit of the season in the opener, and Christian Yelich

Washington Nationals starting pitcher Max Scherzer (31) celebrates his no hitter against the New York Mets with catcher Wilson Ramos (40), Dan Uggla (26), and teammates in the second baseball game of a doubleheader, Saturday, Oct. 3, 2015, in New York.

tied a club record with hits in eight straight at-bats as Miami swept a doubleheader.

Yelich was 5 for 5 in the first game then hit safely in his first three at-bats in the second. In the first game, Gordon became the first Marlins player since Hanley Ramirez in 2007 to record 200 hits with a sixth-inning single.

The Phillies were assured last place in the NL East and the first pick in the 2016 draft.

Gordon went 4 for 9 on the day to raise his average to .331. He trails Washington's Bryce Harper for the NL batting crown by .0001 entering Sunday's final game.

Gordon had two steals to up his season total to 58, overtaking injured Reds outfielder Billy Hamilton for the league lead.

Philadelphia needs to win Sunday's regular-season finale to avoid losing 100 games in a season for the 15th time in club history.

Rookie left-hander Justin Nicolino (5-4) gave up two runs on six hits in seven innings to earn the Game 2 victory. A.J. Ramos recorded his second save of the day by striking out the side in a scoreless ninth, earning his 32nd save in 38 chances.

Phillies rookie right-hander Alec Asher (0-6) failed to earn a win in his seven starts this season, allowing three runs and six hits in two innings.

Maikel Franco homered for Philadelphia in his first start since fracturing his left wrist on Aug. 11 when he was hit by a pitch.

Athletics 7, Mariners 5, 13 innings

In Seattle, Marcus Semien hit a two-run homer in the 13th for Oakland.

Semien's 15th home run gave the Athletics their first three-game winning streak in more than a month after Tom Wilhelmson blew a save opportunity in the ninth inning for the Mariners.

J.C. Ramirez (0-1) pitched a perfect 12th inning before running into trouble in the 13th, giving up a leadoff single to Stephen Vogt and then Semien's homer.

Pat Venditte (2-2) entered in the 10th and pitched three scoreless innings for the Athletics. Felix Doubront worked the 13th for his first save.

Robinson Cano had a three-run homer and extended his hitting streak to 15 games for the Mariners.

Oakland's Danny Valencia homered for the second straight game.

LeBron James: ‘There’s no room for guns’

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio (AP)—LeBron James was at home with his three kids when news broke that a 5-month-old girl had been killed in a drive-by shooting—the third fatal shooting of a child in Cleveland in the past month.

Aavielle Wakefield’s death moved James to speak out on social media, where he used the platform to make an immediate plea for calm and change in the wake of more senseless violence.

On Friday, the NBA star went further, stating his support for stricter gun laws.

“There’s no room for guns,” James said.

James, who has never shied away from stating his opinion on political issues, spoke after practice, a day after another unspeakable tragedy in Cleveland as well as the mass shooting at an Oregon community college, where a gunman killed at least nine people and wounded others when he opened fire on campus.

James decried both situations and took a strong stance on gun control, a divisive issue in the U.S.

“Four kids under the age of five or six years old have been shot and killed or very badly injured,” James said. “There’s no room for that. There’s no room for guns, first of all, but then for violence toward kids or anybody. I see the news go across



A teddy bear wrapped in plastic is tied to a utility pole, Friday, Oct. 2, 2015, in Cleveland, where paramedics tried to revive 5-month-old Aavielle Wakefield the night before.

my phone and I’m sitting there in front of my three kids, so it automatically just hit me.

“It’s not just in Cleveland, it’s the whole nation that goes through this as well. We all hurt from it.”

Cleveland Police Chief Calvin Williams broke down in tears while asking for the public’s help in finding the shooter who shot Wakefield, who was in a car with her mother and grandmother. A 3-year-old boy and 5-year-old boy have also been killed since Sept. 4.

James didn’t hear President Barack Obama’s impassioned

speech Thursday following the Oregon massacre. Obama grimly denounced the latest shooting, saying it had become too commonplace and calling the U.S. “the only advanced country on earth that sees these kinds of mass shootings every few months.”

James didn’t specify what changes he would like to see made to gun laws, but echoed the president’s sentiments.

“I know what I see. I know how I feel,” he said. “Obviously you’re not going to be able to take every gun out. I don’t know how you can do that. There’s so

many around now, today. But if there’s some stipulations behind it or some penalties, some big time penalties or rules or regulations about carrying firearms, legal or illegal, people will second-guess themselves.”

This isn’t the first time James has taken a public stance. When he played in Miami, James led a protest by the Heat players, who wore hooded sweatshirts for a photo shoot to protest the death of teenager Trayvon Martin. Last season, he wore an “I Can’t Breathe” T-shirt in New York after Eric Garner was killed while being arrested.

Cavs’ Thompson declines qualifying offer, still free agent

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio (AP)—Tristan Thompson has gone from boxing out to holding out.

He’s taken his contract stand-off with the Cavaliers to another level.

The backup power forward declined to sign a one-year, \$6.8 million qualifying offer for this season and didn’t report to training camp Friday as the Cavaliers practiced at Cleveland Clinic Courts.

Despite optimism from the Cavs and LeBron James that a deal could be reached, Thompson remains at odds with the team over a long-term deal. Thompson had until 11:59 p.m. EDT Thursday to accept the offer, but let the deadline pass and the Cavs chose not to extend it.

Cavs coach David Blatt joked that he was sleeping when the deadline came and went. He was adamant that he will not allow Thompson’s contract to become a distraction for his team.

“We got a veteran group,” he said. “We got a very professional group of guys going about their business and going about their jobs the way that they should. The team is working and we are going to continue to do so. We’re just back at it. We’ve got to focus on the now and here and that’s what we’re doing.”

An elite rebounder who knows his role, Thompson was a key contributor during Cleveland’s run to the NBA

Finals last season, filling in when starter Kevin Love dislocated his shoulder. Thompson and his representatives believe he deserves a maximum contract. And while the Cavs value Thompson, they aren’t willing to go beyond what they’re comfortable offering.

James said twice in the past few days that he was confident the sides could reach a long-term deal. James is also represented by Thompson’s agent, Rich Paul.

Cavaliers center Anderson Varejao went through a similar contract dispute in 2007 before he signed a three-year, \$17 million offer sheet with Charlotte that was matched by Cleveland.

“It wasn’t easy for me. I missed the first 21 games if I remember,” Varejao said. “But I had to do it back then because I felt like I was disrespected with the offer they offered me. I don’t really know what’s going on with Tristan right now, numbers and stuff, I’m not sure. But I’m pretty confident he will be here soon.”

General manager David Griffin expressed optimism Thursday that Thompson would report to training camp.

“We fully expect he’ll be here in some form or fashion and we’re excited to get going,” Griffin said on NBA TV. “We’re hopeful that he wants to move forward with his teammates in the same way we want to have Tristan here. If we can come to some agreement we will.”

CNMI

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than 10 minutes apart and the CNMI gave up only four after the first half.

“The first goal was off a free kick, which the boys said was wrongfully called a handball in the second minute of the game,” the team manager said. “The team was set up in a highly defensive manner; 5-4-1 formation with a deeper, tight block in our half of the pitch.”

The CNMI U19 National Team’s new formation had James Ermitanio, Alan Hinson, Jordan Butcher, captain Kennedy Izuka, and Yoshi Mafnas making up the five defenders,

Ryan Relucio, Joel Fruit, Hunter Jewell, and Terrence Thosert-Belcher playing the four midfield, and Sean Perez acting as attacking player. Goalkeeper Chris Aninzo completed the Teen Ayuyus’ starting 11. Ryu Tanzawa, Chad Shankweiler, and Wonjun Kim were the substitutes.

“Thailand is the reigning U19 AFF Champions and had majority of possession. We were on our toes the whole time, chasing and tracking the speedy Thais around the pitch. The boys were amazed by Thailand’s passing in tight areas around the players. Fortunately, as directed by the coaches, the boys worked hard and sacrificed their bodies to

prevent goals and force bad shots from the Thais,” Zapanta said.

Thailand got its second goal off a break in the 20th minute after an own goal from Thosert-Belcher, while the last two were recorded by forward Anon Amornlertsak and Panthong in the 38th and 45th minute, respectively. Amornlertsak also scored in the second half (67th minute), while the hosts’ other goals came from forwards Wisarut Imura (63rd) and Ritthidet Phensawat (72nd).

“The rest of the goals were highly contested and well earned by the Thais. Christo-

pher made a lot of great saves throughout the night and along with the hard-working team, they prevented what looked to be sure goals. No shots on goal from the boys tonight, but it almost felt like a win for the team by achieving their goal of limiting Thailand to seven goals,” Zapanta said.

Meanwhile, the CNMI was scheduled to play its last game in Group H yesterday against pool leader South Korea (2-0-0).

“Coach Seki (Kiyoshi Sekiguchi) said in our meeting before the game against Korea

that the boys are lucky to play against Thailand and Korea, to be in a football-loving country, and play against quality teams in front of a crowd that loves and supports the sport. It is very rare that there are spectators coming out to watch a youth match, so it is a wonderful opportunity and experience for the boys to join this tournament. This will be the final game for the boys and the coaches have urged them to use what they have learned from the previous matches to play a good one against South Korea. Minimize the mistakes and continue to work hard,” Zapanta said.

ing away further in the second half with the rest of the team joining the scoring surge.

Mamba failed to mount a comeback, as it had only Christian Devero and Brendon Talania consistently scoring for the squad. Devero and Talania finished with 21 points apiece, while J.R. Mina had a quiet 12 points with most of his baskets made when the game was already in the bag for Makalaro Lang.

Makalaro Lang 98 – I. Devero 32, Jugos 21, Peredo 18, Velasco 10, Moises 7, De Leon 6, Morales 4.

Mamba 69 – C. Devero 21, Talania 21, Mina 12, M. Devero 8, Woodson 4, Macoto 3.

Scoring by halves: 40-26, 98-69.

the elimination after missing a couple of games. Fifteen of Jugos’ total points came from downtown, as he was on target from beyond the arc, particularly in the fourth quarter where he canned three straight triples. Errol Peredo and Raymond Velasco were the other double-figure scorers for Makalaro Lang, chipping in 18 and 10, respectively, and the squad’s three other players—Ernie Moises, Greg De Leon, and Rico Morales—combined for twin digits, too, contributing 17.

With Jugos hitting his outside shots and Devero anchoring Malakaro Lang’s fastbreak plays, they took a promising 14-point lead at the halftime, 40-26. Makalaro Lang never looked back from thereon, pull-

MAKALARO

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Amor could also end up with a 6-2 slate should it get the victory against Oh My J today. To resolve the three-way tie for the outright semis berth, which is given to the No. 1 finisher in the team standings, league organizers will implement a point system based on the teams’ winning margin against each other.

Four Makalaro Lang players scored double-figures in their domination of Mamba, which fell short in its bid for the automatic semis ticket after dropping to a 5-3 slate. Ivan Devero led the way for Makalaro Lang with his 32 points, while John Jugos added 21 as he showed up in the team’s last match in

3 with two doubles, a run, and an RBI. Ken Kapileo had two doubles, two RBIs, and scored a run on a 2-for-3 batting.

Juan Diaz also had an excellent performance on the mound for Brotherhood despite being tagged by two earned runs as he limited Mommy Charu to five hits.

He forced opposing batters to either ground out or fly out that with the defense always there to get him out of trouble.

It was almost the same story in Game 2 as Brotherhood’s bats went to work early to pull away early and just played to protect their lead as they held Mommy Charu to a single run.

FINAL

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with Brotherhood. A loss by IP&E would mean a deciding match on Oct. 11.

IP&E rallied in the fifth inning where they scored eight runs to erase a 4-1 deficit and secure victory.

Brotherhood, in the first game, used a pair of four-run innings in the third and fourth for the shortened match via the 10-run mercy rule. They had 19 hits.

Jeff Diaz led Brotherhood’s hit parade going 3-for-3 with three singles and two runs, while Al Camacho also went 3-for-

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
NBA STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	93	68	.578	—
y-New York	87	74	.540	6
Baltimore	80	81	.497	13
Tampa Bay	79	82	.491	14
Boston	78	83	.484	15
Central Division				
x-Kansas City	94	67	.584	—
Minnesota	83	78	.516	11
Cleveland	80	80	.500	13 1/2
Chicago	76	85	.472	18
Detroit	73	87	.456	20 1/2
West Division				
z-Texas	87	74	.540	—
Houston	86	75	.534	1
Los Angeles	85	76	.528	2
Seattle	75	86	.466	12
Oakland	68	93	.422	19
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
x-New York	89	72	.553	—
Washington	83	78	.516	6
Miami	71	90	.441	18
Atlanta	65	95	.406	23 1/2
Philadelphia	62	99	.385	27
Central Division				
x-St. Louis	100	60	.625	—
y-Pittsburgh	97	64	.602	3 1/2
y-Chicago	96	65	.596	4 1/2
Milwaukee	68	93	.422	32 1/2
Cincinnati	64	97	.398	36 1/2
West Division				
x-Los Angeles	91	70	.565	—
San Francisco	84	77	.5227	
Arizona	78	83	.484	13
San Diego	74	87	.460	17
Colorado	67	94	.416	24
z-clinched playoff berth				
x-clinched division				
y-clinched wild card				
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

Ferrera Builders wins opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Ferrera Builders drew first blood in the 2015 San Antonio Community Action Network Basketball League after outclassing the Sonics, 62-46, in the U18 division match last Saturday night at the San Antonio court.

Ferrera Builders held Sonics to one point in the pivotal third quarter to win the kick-off game in the inaugural league, which also features games in the Open and Masters divisions.

The Sonics were limited to a solitary point in the third period, which began with Ferrara Builders ahead by only 4, 30-26. The Sonics got their lone point from Ryan Esmundo's split free throw that came midway in the third and the squad continued to have misfortunes in the closing minutes, either throwing wayward shots or muffing point-blank attempts.

While the Sonics bled for points, Ferrara Builders had an easier time finding ways to score with the burly Jun Javier muscling his way into the basket and even hitting a triple in the third canto. The Ferrara Builders center nailed 7 points in the crucial third period and his production was matched by Chico Bondoc to lift their team to a 46-27 advantage, entering the final canto.

In the fourth quarter, both Javier and Chico Bondoc went cold, but their teammates picked up the slack to give Ferrara Builders the double-digit lead on multiple occasions. Joshua Leyco and Amos Lee had 6 points apiece in the fourth, while Franco Bondoc and Jun Castro contributed 2 each.

The Sonics redeemed themselves from a dismal third-quarter showing with a 19-point output in the fourth canto and they even sliced the deficit to single digit, 43-52, after a triple for Raymart Bautista, with still four minutes

and change left in the match. However, Ferrara Builders went on a 10-3 windup with Lee nailing 6 of the team's last 10 markers to seal the win. The Sonics, who got off to a good start after leading at 20-13 in the first frame, fell short on their comeback bid as they continued to miss easy layups and undergoal stabs in the closing minutes of the fourth.

Javier top-scored in Ferrara Builders' winning debut with a game-high 17 points, while Leyco and Castro also nailed double figures with 12 and 10, respectively. Art Borromeo and Bautista paced the Sonics, tallying 15 points each.

Meanwhile, two matches in the open division were played in the opening day last Saturday and results will be announced in *Saipan Tribune's* Tuesday edition. MJD faced the Sonics in the first open division game, while KB Market and Islander Hoops collided in the second match.

Today, CES Electronics takes on GMJ for the first tiff in the masters division, while the latter's open division team duels Pacman in the second match of the night. The complete schedule of games will be released once all teams have met the league's requirements. So far, the open division has lured 16 teams, getting six more before the weekend opening, while the

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Sonics' Lawrence Diyco is fouled by Ferrara Builders' Jun Javier in this rebound play during the second quarter of their U18 division game in opening of the San Antonio caging last Saturday at the San Antonio court.



masters and U18 division have 8 and 5, respectively.

Ferrera Builders 62 – Ja-

vier 17, Leyco 12, Castro 10, F. Bondoc 8, C. Bondoc 7, Lee 6.

Sonics 46 – Borromeo 15,

Bautista 15, Esmundo 6, Salalila 4, Muna 3, Diyco 1.

Scoring by quarters: 13-20, 30-26, 46-27, 62-46.

White encourages NMSA members to join FISU program

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Sports Association president Mike White is encouraging all federations to have their college-age members consider joining next year's volunteer program in the World University Championships.

White sent an email to all NMSA member federations where he forwarded the message sent to him by International University Sports Federation secretary general and chief executive officer Eric Saintrond.

"The volunteer program looks great and should interest members of your federations who are college-age students," said White in the email.

White added that interested volunteers would only shoulder the transportation cost to the country where the FISU WUC's sporting event will take place.

"After that, everything is paid for by the organizing committee. NMSA may be able to help with the airfare, subject to board approval," White said.

White then instructed all federations to pass the information to their members who might be interested to join the program. "I would be happy to do whatever I can to facilitate."

Saintrond said that this would be the first time that FISU is launching the program, which aims to give students from different countries an inside track in organizing WUC events as an internation-

al volunteers.

"We would very much appreciate if you could help us promoting this program in your respective country and to your students. We have seen that several NUSF have already put a direct link with information on this program on their website. We strongly encourage you to do the same," added Saintrond.

The first WUC event is cross country in Casino, Italy on March 12 and will be followed by cycling in Tagaytay City, Philippines from March 23 to 27. FISU's world championships will stretch to December with the martial arts of sambo in Larnaca, Cyprus from Dec. 9 to 11.

FISU is based in Lausanne, Switzerland. Since 2004, they had organized 34 WUC sporting events that attracted thousands of student athletes from more than 150 countries around the world.

Archery, badminton, baseball, beach volleyball, bridge, chess, cross country, cycling, equestrian, flat water canoeing, floorball, futsal, golf, handball, field hockey, karate, match racing, ski orienteering, rowing, rugby 7s, sailing, sport shooting, softball, squash, taekwondo, triathlon, white water canoeing, waterskiing, weightlifting, woodball, wrestling, 3x3 basketball, American football, boxing, canoe sprint, netball, rowing, speed skating, and sport climbing, are FISU's WUC events.

For more information, email FISU at championships@fisunet.net.



Practice sessions help inaugural Paddlefest's success

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The weekly practice sessions helped the successful staging of the inaugural Marianas Paddlefest Series, prompting organizers to hold a second event set on Nov. 7 also at the Hyatt Regency Saipan beachside.

The practice sessions, which started yesterday, will take place every 2pm to 4pm of Sunday and will run until Nov. 1 also at the Hyatt beachside.

Organizers said the format worked well during the June event that's why they decided to do the same for the second time.

The practice sessions were also effective to children who joined the June 28 race as it also became a family event with their parents also joining them out on the water. Some of the kids who also joined were first time to try paddleboarding and be out on the water.

One of the Paddlefest's objectives is promoting an active and healthy lifestyle for the kids through stand up paddleboarding and other paddle sports.

Participants also increased every Sunday as the practice sessions helped them get used to the race course. Fifty-five individuals joined the inaugural event in June and this time race organizers will have exciting additions on Nov. 7.

The race was originally set in the last weekend of August but was cancelled due to Typhoon Soudelor.

"We appreciate everyone's patience as we've worked to establish a new date and we're looking forward to seeing everyone back in addition to those that weren't able to make it to our first event," said Dino Manning, one of the race organizers.

The race is divided into the men's, women's, and youth triangle courses, and the mixed three-person relay. The youth division will have Under-12, U14, and U16 age groups while

the open 17-over, and masters 50-over are for the adults.

All events include a running beach finish of approximately 40 to 50 meters. One member of the mixed team relay must either be a female or a U14 racer.

All race events will take place inside the lagoon where spectators can watch all the action.

The Hyatt Regency Saipan, Windsurfing Saipan, and The OceanSoul Society joined hands in organizing the event. Triple J Enterprises, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, and KKMP RADIO 92.1 are the event partners.

Registration fees are \$10 for

youth (8 to 16 years old) and \$20 for adults (17 and over). Deadline for registration is on Nov. 4.

For more information and registration visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/marianas-paddlefest-race-2-registration-18710063303> or register at Windsurfing Saipan located at Hyatt's north side at the beachfront or email oceansoulunlimited@gmail.com or windsun@me.com. Updates will also be posted on the OceanSoul Society Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/OceansoulUnlimited>.



YOUTH PARTICIPANTS PREPARE TO TAKE ON THE WATER IN THE INAUGURAL STANDUP PADDLEBOARD RACE LAST JUNE. THE SECOND EDITION OF THE EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE ON NOV. 7 ALSO AT THE HYATT REGENCY SAIPAN'S BEACH SIDE.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Scherzer throws
his 2nd no-hitter
this year, Nats
sweep Mets

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Ferrera
Builders
wins opener

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI reaches goal vs Thailand



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI coach Kiyoshi Sekiguchi and his assistant Jerishwin Angeles, left, talk while the Teen Ayuyus wait for instructions before their game against Thailand in the AFC U19 Championship Bahrain 2016 Qualifiers last Friday night at the SCG Stadium in Bangkok.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI accomplished its goal against Thailand, limiting the ASEAN Football Federation champion to seven goals in their game in the the AFC U19 Championship Bahrain 2016 Qualifiers last Friday night at the SCG Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand.

“We went into the game with a goal of limiting Thailand to eight goals. The team has been improving and is constantly being pushed to work hard and try its best. We had a team meeting before departing for the match. They reviewed some videos, watched highlights of Japan vs Singapore to reference our game plan, and introduced our goal of preventing a goal in the first



five minutes of each half and limiting Thailand to one goal every 10 minutes after that,” team manager Ruselle Zapanta said.

The Teen Ayuyus missed its target of preventing the host from scoring early, as midfielder Sorawit Panthong put Thailand on the board in the second minute. However, the Thais’ next two goals were more

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Brotherhood marches to finals



By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Brotherhood swept Mommy Charu in the playoff round to march to the finals of the Belau Men's Slow-pitch Softball League yesterday at the Dandan ballfield.

Brotherhood scored a 12-2 win in Game 1 then followed that up with an easy 9-1 decision in the next game to clinch the first finals berth.

They will face the winner of the SA Masters-IP&E match, which was still being played at press time, in next Sunday's title game.

IP&E defeated SA Masters, 9-4, in the opener and another win would put them in a championship showdown

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JON PEREZ

Jerry Ayuyu of Brotherhood runs toward home base to score a run in their game against Mommy Charu in the playoff round of the 2015 Belau Men's Slow-pitch Softball League yesterday at the Dandan ballfield.

Makalaro Lang finishes strong

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Makalaro Lang closed out its elimination round assignment in the 2015 Blue Haus/IT&E Inter-Color Basketball League with a 98-69 rout of Mamba last Saturday at the Navy Hill court.

Makalaro Lang finished the round-robin contest with a 6-2 record to remain in the hunt for the automatic semis slot, pending results of Hard Kulangot's last two matches and the decision in the game between Pasion De Amor and Oh My J. Hard Kulangot was scheduled to play against Purple Rain yesterday and then resumes its rained-out match versus Kidlat today and a pair of wins would give the former a 6-2 record. Pasion De

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Makalaro Lang's Ivan Devero leans in for a jumper against Mamba's Adonis Macoto, third from left, and brother Christian, second left, during the second half of their game in the Blue Haus-IT&E caging last Saturday at the Navy Hill court.